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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Deaths highest in 11 months

Virus cases, hospitalizations continue to surge as hospital officials reiterate importance of vaccines

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut on Thursday reported 121 coronavirus-linked deaths over the past week, the most in a seven-day period in nearly a year.

COVID-19 deaths have not risen in Connecticut as quickly as cases and hospitalizations — a fact experts attribute to the success of vaccines in limiting severe illness — but have nonetheless increased during the state's recent surge. Connecticut has now recorded

9,281 COVID-19 deaths during the pandemic, including 416 over the past six weeks.

The last time Connecticut reported more than 100 deaths in a single week was last February, at the tail end of last winter's COVID-19 surge.

The recent increase in deaths comes as the state's coronavirus case counts and test positivity rate continue to hit all-time highs and

hospitalizations approach record levels as well. On Thursday, the state reported a positivity rate above 20% for the fifth straight day, plus nearly 9,000 new cases and an increase of more than 100 hospitalizations.

Hospital officials say unvaccinated people, as well as vaccinated people who have not received booster shots, continue to account for the majority of COVID-19

patients, particularly in intensive care units.

"It still remains quite rare for a patient to be admitted to the hospital who is boosted against COVID," Dr. Scott Roberts, associate medical director-infection prevention, Yale New Haven Health, said Thursday.

The United States has now

Turn to Virus, Page 3



JAN. 6 INSURRECTION
ONE YEAR LATER

State's officials recall horror

In retelling trauma, delegation asserts spirit of democracy

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — A year later, some of Connecticut's top elected leaders Thursday recalled the terrifying moments when violent insurrectionists stormed into the nation's Capitol as Congress prepared to certify Joe Biden's electoral vote win.

At a Hartford press conference, Sen. Chris Murphy and Sen. Richard Blumenthal described rushing out of the Senate Chamber as rioters were within eyesight and earshot. Rep. Rosa DeLauro recounted lying on the floor of the House and calling her husband to say she loved him.

On Capitol Hill, President Biden delivered a pointed address aimed at former President Donald Trump, who he said "created and spread a web of lies about the 2020 election."

"We didn't see a former president, who had just rallied the mob to attack — sitting in the private dining room off the Oval Office in the White House, watching it all on television and doing nothing for hours as police were assaulted, lives at risk, and the nation's capital under siege," Biden said. "This wasn't a group of tourists. This was an armed insurrection. They weren't looking to uphold

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■ **INSIDE:** President Joe Biden slams former President Donald Trump on the anniversary of the attack. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

'RIGHT THING TO DO'

After the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday recommended COVID-19 booster vaccinations for 12- to 15-year-olds, Hartford HealthCare began giving shots to adolescents early Thursday. As they waited for booster shots, Dr. Ulysses Wu said the youths were "incredibly intelligent and mature kids who know that this is the right thing to do. Not just to protect yourselves, but to protect your loved ones and those around you." About half of 12- to 15-year-olds in the U.S. are fully vaccinated, the CDC said.



ABOVE: West Hartford teenager Yzzy Albert receives a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot Thursday morning at Hartford Hospital. **TOP:** Lisa Scranton hugs her daughter, Miya Scranton, after the teenager received her booster Thursday. "It is critical that we protect our children and teens from COVID-19 infection and the complications of severe disease," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the CDC, said in a statement. "This booster dose will provide optimized protection against COVID-19 and the omicron variant."

PHOTOS BY MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

UConn athletics to require vaccine proof or negative test for fans

Policy goes in effect for games starting Jan. 15

By Dom Amore
and Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

UConn announced Thursday it will require athletic event spectators aged 12 and older to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or, for unvaccinated individuals, a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of game time starting Jan. 15.

The university re-examined its

attendance policy amid record-high COVID-19 test positivity rates in Connecticut and an explosion of cases nationwide amid the spread of the highly contagious omicron variant.

"Although we're checking vaccinations," UConn AD David Benedict said, "it doesn't guarantee you are going to have a 100 percent healthy fan base at your games. It's just not possible. We see this as an effort to do the best we can to mitigate risk as much as we possibly can."

Full attendance has been allowed at sporting events in the state since

PROVING VACCINE STATUS: Fans can show proof in physical or digital form, including by using the CT WiZ web portal or showing a photo of their CDC-issued card. The CDC defines a person as fully vaccinated as someone who is two weeks out from their second dose in a two-dose vaccine or two weeks out from a single-dose vaccine.

May. Both the UConn men's and women's basketball teams have drawn sellout crowds at Gampel Pavilion and at the XL Center.

UConn's athletics programs have been among those affected by COVID-19 in the last few weeks. The men's and women's basketball teams have had six games

combined canceled due to COVID-19 outbreaks, while the men's hockey team also had to reschedule several. The return of students to campus was also delayed two weeks.

Students, when they do return, are asked to avoid indoor gatherings.

"We have a greater burden to think about as having these events on our campus," Benedict said. "Right now, students are not on our campus. This is an effort to take a level of precaution as it relates to trying to safeguard the university community. That won't be 100 percent back until the end of the month, but this is an extra step over and above what we were doing."

Fans can show proof of vaccination in physical or digital form, including by using the CT WiZ web portal or showing a photo of

Turn to UConn, Page 3

State to mandate boosters for health workers

In response to rising COVID-19 cases, Gov. Ned Lamont said the state will mandate boosters for workers in nursing homes and assisted living facilities by Feb. 11. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Horror

from Page 1

the will of the people. They were looking to deny the will of the people.”

Blumenthal and Murphy, unharmed that day but still shaken by the attack that has led to more than 725 arrests and more than 150 convictions for rioters who ransacked the Capitol.

“This is a pretty terrible day,” Murphy told reporters as Blumenthal stood next to him. “It was 2:30 in the afternoon when Dick and I were sitting in that chamber, and a bloodied Capitol police officer burst through the swinging doors and yelled at us frantically that we needed to evacuate the chamber and that we needed to do it quickly. ... As we walked through the Capitol, we were within earshot and eyesight of rioters who, had they been able to reach members of the Senate or the House, would have done some tremendous violence.”

Blumenthal said he feared he could have been injured.

“This day will always haunt me,” Blumenthal said. “They wanted to kill us. They wanted to hurt us. And they said they wanted to murder the Vice President of the United States. It was, in effect, a coup — seeking to overthrow the government, stop the transition of power, and halt the counting of votes that would have changed our democracy forever.”

Blumenthal added, “I am haunted by the sights and sounds of that day. The blood, the broken glass, the physical injuries that we saw. The sounds of doors slammed, just 50 feet away from us.”

Like others, DeLauro, of New Haven, remembered the day in personal terms.

“On Jan. 6, 2021, I called my husband while lying on the floor of the House gallery in the United States Capitol to tell him I was safe, to reassure our family that everything would be



The U.S. Capitol is seen from the Washington Monument on Thursday, one year after the attack on the building. THE NEW YORK TIMES

all right,” DeLauro said. “I remember hesitating before saying ‘I love you’ and hanging up the phone — the moment hearkened back to Sept. 11, 2001.”

She added, “A year later, it is still difficult to comprehend the gravity of this attack on our democracy. As we reflect on that horrific day filled with great sadness and lasting trauma, may we recognize that, above all, American democracy is resilient. On that day, our institutions withstood the threat, and we overcame the chaos. The principles of our Constitution not only survived this crisis but proved again that our democratic system works and remains a beacon of hope for the world.”

In response, DeLauro

said that the appropriations committee that she chairs successfully passed nearly \$1 billion to increase Capitol security, including the police.

Around the nation, Americans marked the anniversary Thursday as they discussed the political divisions in the nation and looked ahead to the midterm elections this year and the presidential election in 2024. Many voters believe that Trump, who lost to Biden in the popular vote and Electoral College tally, will run again in 2024.

While some of Trump’s supporters have downplayed the violence and sought to whitewash the history of the insurrection, Republicans in Connecticut said it cannot be forgotten.

“We condemn the violence of January 6, 2021 in the strongest of terms, just as we have continued to do since the day it happened,” Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford and deputy leader Paul Formica of East Lyme said in a statement.

“A year later justice moves forward, and the tarnishing on our democracy and the process that occurred in Washington last year must serve as a reminder to be ever vigilant and grateful for our freedoms provided to us by the brave men and women who have sacrificed for our nation. We must not tolerate violence, and we must together encourage peaceful and respectful civil discourse so the voices of

all people are heard.”

They added, “In Connecticut, we do not stand for violence or those who incite division. That is not the Connecticut way.”

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, a Vernon Democrat, said the repercussions are still being felt one year later for the victims of the violence.

“Thanks to the courageous actions of the U.S. Capitol Police, the Washington D.C. Police, and the D.C. National Guard, the mob was stopped — but not without a bloody cost,” Courtney said. “One police officer, Brian Sicknick, was pepper sprayed and lost his life from the assault, and four others died by suicide within seven months of the attack. A total of 140 officers were injured, and 17 were

still out of work five months afterwards.”

Courtney added, “The cowards who assaulted these sentinels with bats, poles, fire extinguishers, and pepper spray are being brought to justice. Over 700 have been indicted, 151 have been convicted, and many are still imprisoned.”

U.S. Rep. John B. Larson of East Hartford said, “I witnessed firsthand the mob overtake Capitol Police officers from the window of my office. It was a sad day for democracy and an eye-opener, but we returned to the Capitol, we voted and defeated the insurrection.”

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LOTTERY

Thursday, Jan. 6

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PLAY4 DAY 0 6 1 0 **WB:** 2
The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.
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PLAY3 NIGHT 6 0 0 **WB:** 0
PLAY4 NIGHT 1 4 7 5 **WB:** 3
CASH 5 7 17 26 28 29
LUCKY FOR LIFE 5 8 22 37 43 **LB:** 8
POWERBALL 6 14 25 33 46 **PB:** 17 **PP:** 2
Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.9M
Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$278M
Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$20M

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FROM PAGE ONE

Israeli prayer plan hits political wall

Bennett government faces equality debate at sensitive holy site

By Tia Goldenberg
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — When Israel's new government took office last June, it indicated it would press ahead on an egalitarian prayer site at Jerusalem's Western Wall — a sensitive holy site that has emerged as a point of friction between Jews over how prayer is conducted there.

But the plan is coming up against the limits of Israel's fragile government, which is struggling to move forward on the issue due to its own internal divisions. The inaction has disappointed both Israeli groups that promote religious pluralism and their American Jewish allies, who view the issue as an important test of recognition from the Israeli government.

"Anyone can topple the government if they sneeze in the wrong direction," said Anat Hoffman, chairwoman of Women of the Wall, a group that advocates for pluralistic prayer at the holy site. "They are very cautious with the temperature of the hot potatoes that come their way and the Western Wall is a special hot potato."

The Western Wall is considered the holiest site where Jews can pray. Under ultra-Orthodox management, the wall is separated between men's and women's prayer sections.

Under the more liberal Reform and Conservative streams of Judaism, women and men pray together and women are allowed to read from the Torah, which Orthodox Judaism prohibits. Those streams are a minority in Israel but make up the majority of American Jews. Israel's refusal to recognize these liberal streams has long been a point of tension with American Jews.

After years of negotia-



Members of Women of the Wall gather around a Torah they smuggled in for prayers last month at the Western Wall. MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

tions, Israel approved a plan in 2016 to officially recognize a special prayer area at the Western Wall. The \$9 million plan vowed to expand an egalitarian prayer site and make it more hospitable to prayer and religious events held by Jews who don't follow Orthodox traditions.

The deal was welcomed by Jewish American leaders and seen as a breakthrough in promoting religious pluralism in Israel, where the ultra-Orthodox authorities govern almost every facet of Jewish life. But then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu never implemented the plan due to objections from ultra-Orthodox allies who had initially endorsed it.

He shelved the plan the following year, leading to

strained relations with American Jewish leaders that continued until he left office last year. His tight relationship with President Donald Trump further unsettled the heavily Democratic-leaning Jewish community.

American Jews have long lamented that Israel should be as accepting of their religious practices as they are of their financial and political support.

The new government, led by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett — the child of American immigrants — brought hope that the plan may be revived.

As Israel's minister of diaspora affairs at the time, Bennett voted in favor of the plan when it was initially tabled and repeatedly expressed the impor-

ance he placed in the relationship with the U.S. Jewish community. That his coalition excludes any ultra-Orthodox parties only heightened the feeling that the time was ripe for the plan to move forward.

Under Bennett's leadership, contacts between U.S. liberal Jewish leaders and Israeli government officials have surged. Bennett himself met with the leaders in what was perceived as a major step in repairing ties.

But Bennett heads an unwieldy coalition of parties from across the political spectrum — ranging from nationalist parties to dovish liberal ones and even an Islamist faction — that was united behind the goal of ousting Netanyahu and very little else. While the Western Wall plan features in

agreements that brought the coalition together, its leaders have generally chosen to sidestep divisive issues that might rattle its stability.

Moving ahead with the Western Wall plan could spark an outcry from ultra-Orthodox opposition parties, which, in turn, could exert pressure on more sympathetic elements of the coalition to oppose the move. And while the government isn't likely to fall over the Western Wall plan, a public brawl over the issue within government ranks could wear down the already delicate ties that bind the coalition.

Tensions at the Western Wall continue to flare.

On Monday, dozens of women arrived to pray wearing skullcaps and prayer shawls — items

reserved for men under Orthodox Judaism. In what has become a monthly ritual, they were met by young women shrieking in an attempt to drown out their prayers.

In November, thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews gathered to protest the Women of the Wall. They heeded a call by ultra-Orthodox leaders to not have the site "desecrated."

Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, said that if implemented, the Western Wall agreement would open the door to other steps toward religious pluralism in Israel.

"This is an issue that won't change everything, but it will change and symbolically shifts things towards more respect or legitimacy," he said.

UConn

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their CDC-issued vaccination card.

The CDC defines a person as fully vaccinated as someone who is two weeks out from their second dose in a two-dose vaccine or two weeks out from a single-dose vaccine.

Unvaccinated fans, including those who received a medical or religious exemption from receiving the vaccine, must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test administered by a medical professional within 72 hours of game time. The test can be a negative PCR or rapid antigen test, but not an at-home test. Those test results can also be presented in either a physical or digital form.

"We felt like making that change and not allowing [fans to get in with a negative test] would eliminate opportunity for some to attend," Benedict said. "That is people who also have exemptions from the vaccine. So I think it was middle ground that was appropriate."

Fans must show identification corresponding to their vaccination record or test result.

As of Thursday, roughly 90% of Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 75% and 83.3% of those groups are fully vaccinated.



UConn and Providence played to a sellout crowd of 15,564 at the XL Center on Dec. 18. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Fans experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should not attend games, the school says. Spectators aged 2 and older must wear masks unless they're eating or drinking.

There will be a handful of games held before the new policy takes effect: As

of now, the UConn women's basketball team is still set to host Creighton Sunday in Storrs, while the men's basketball team will play St. John's Wednesday, also at Gampel.

On Jan. 14, the women's hockey team hosts Boston College in Storrs and the

men's team takes on Boston University at the XL Center. UConn's spring semester begins Jan. 18.

Other Big East schools with vaccine requirements for spectators, with varying age requirements, include Georgetown, St. John's, DePaul and Xavier — the

first three as a result of city requirements in D.C., New York City and Chicago, respectively.

Xavier allows spectators to submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test within the previous 72 hours or proof of vaccination, and DePaul offers that as an

alternative for those who received medical or religious exemptions from getting the vaccine. Seton Hall designated its upcoming game versus St. John's on the men's side as student only.

Some schools have gone a step further. Central Connecticut, for example, said its two basketball home games this week will be held without spectators. Yale has taken similar steps.

Across the country, Stanford and USC have closed athletics events to the public.

Benedict said playing without fans was discussed but not seriously considered. He expects the policy will be revisited as conditions change between now and the end of the season.

"There's not any one in the Big East, which I would consider our peers, who have done that," he said. "The situation is fluid, we thought we made the best decision at this point in time, but things obviously can change."

The UConn men are set to play at Seton Hall on Saturday. The women's basketball team has had four games canceled due to COVID-19 issues, with its next scheduled contest Sunday.

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Virus

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recorded 833,146 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 8,823 new COVID-19 cases Thursday out of 38,674 tests, for a daily positivity rate of

22.8%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 22.4%, the highest of any time since widespread testing began more than 18 months ago.

Gov. Ned Lamont noted Thursday that Connecticut's positivity rate has remained between 20 and 25% in recent days, after increasing sharply last week.

"Still at 23% infection rate, a high infection rate, about the same as where we've been [this week]," Lamont said. "If that's flattening out, that's good news."

Connecticut has now averaged 7,635 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, up from an average of 341 just two months ago and far more than at any other time of the pandemic. Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

All eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the

federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut had 1,784 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up 108 from Wednesday and up more than 600 in the past week.

Connecticut is now fewer than 200 hospitalized patients shy of its record of

1,972, set on April 22, 2020.

According to the state, 68% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Vaccinations

As of Thursday, 89.5% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 75% of all residents and 83.8% of those 12 and

older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 44% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

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JAN. 6 INSURRECTION ONE YEAR LATER

‘Dagger at the throat of democracy’

Biden slams Trump, backers in speech on anniversary of attack

By Mary Clare Jalonick, Lisa Mascaro and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden accused Donald Trump and his supporters of holding a “dagger at the throat of democracy” in a forceful speech Thursday marking the anniversary of the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol. He warned that though it didn’t succeed, the insurrection remains a serious threat to America’s system of government.

Biden’s criticism was blistering of the defeated president whom he blamed for the assault that has fundamentally changed Congress and the nation, and raised global concerns about the future of American democracy.

“For the first time in our history, a president not just lost an election, he tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power as a violent mob breached the Capitol,” Biden said. “You can’t love your country only when you win.”

His voice booming at times, filling the ornate Statuary Hall where rioters had laid siege, the president called on Americans to remember what they saw Jan. 6: the mob attacking police, breaking windows, a Confederate flag inside the Capitol, gallows erected outside threatening to hang the vice president — all while Trump sat at the White House watching it on TV.



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris gave speeches to mark the Jan. 6 riot. **EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/POOL VIA AP**

“The former president’s supporters are trying to rewrite history. They want you to see Election Day as the day of insurrection and the riot that took place here on January 6 as a true expression of the will of the people. Can you think of a more twisted way to look at this country, to look at America? I cannot.”

The president’s remarks launched the start of a daylong remembrance, drawing a contrast between the truth of what happened and the false narratives that persist about the Capitol assault, including the continued refusal by many Republicans to affirm Biden

won the election.

“We must be absolutely clear about what is true and what is a lie,” Biden said. “The former president of the United States of America has spread a web of lies about the 2020 election.”

He said: “We are in a battle for the soul of America.

“I did not seek this fight, brought to this Capitol one year from today. But I will not shrink from it either. I will stand in this breach. I will defend this nation. I will allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of this democracy.”

Republican leaders and lawmakers largely stayed away from the day’s events,

dismissing them as overly politicized — some continuing to spread false claims about the election.

From Florida, Trump revived his unfounded attack on the elections. He accepted no responsibility for egging on the crowd that day. Instead, in one of several statements Thursday, he said Biden was trying to “further divide America. This political theater is all just a distraction.”

Even among congressional Republicans who condemned the attack in the days afterward, most have stayed loyal to the former president.

“What brazen politiciza-

tion of January 6 by President Biden,” tweeted Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a sometimes Trump confidant. Others, including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, were absent, with a contingent attending the funeral for a former colleague, Sen. Johnny Isakson in Georgia.

Far-right Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Matt Gaetz stood by their refusal to certify Biden’s election that day — “We’re ashamed of nothing,” Gaetz said on a podcast.

The division is a stark reminder of the rupture between the two parties, worsening since hundreds

of Trump’s supporters violently interrupted the certification of Biden’s victory.

Rep. Liz Cheney, chair of the House committee investigating the attack and one of the few GOP lawmakers attending the Capitol ceremonies, warned that “the threat continues.” Trump, she said, “continues to make the same claims that he knows caused violence on January 6.”

She was joined by her father, Dick Cheney, the former vice president, who was greeted warmly by several Democrats. He stood with her, the only Republicans seen, for a moment of silence on the House floor.

He said in a statement: “I am deeply disappointed at the failure of many members of my party to recognize the grave nature of the January 6 attacks and the ongoing threat to our nation.”

The Senate also convened a moment of silence.

On the House floor, where many members were evacuated and some were trapped as the rioters tried to break in, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi drew on history with a hope that Americans would turn to their “better angels” to resolve differences. She delivered private remarks to Hill staff who, as she said in an interview Wednesday, had stayed a year ago to “protect our democracy.”

On Tuesday afternoon, House Democrats took turns in sharing personal testimonials about their experiences on Jan. 6.

Trump’s claims of widespread election fraud were rejected by the courts and refuted by his own Justice Department.

ANALYSIS

Guarding against Trump is Biden’s reluctant calling

By Zeke Miller and Colleen Long
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It may not be the fight he sought, but taking on Donald Trump is President Joe Biden’s calling.

Biden offered himself as a guardian of American democracy in a visceral speech Thursday discussing the horrors of the Jan. 6 insurrection that sought to overthrow his 2020 election victory. Trump’s refusal to accept the reality of his defeat spawned a conspiracy that came close to shattering the nation’s system of government and continues to ripple through society a year later.

“I did not seek this fight, brought to this Capitol one year ago today, but I will not shrink from it either,” Biden said in his 25-minute address from Statuary Hall, where rioters had roamed one year earlier.

Yet even in his own telling, Biden’s presidency has been shaped by and in response to his predecessor.

At age 75 and grieving the recent death of his adult son, the former vice president decided to reenter public life to battle for the “soul

of America” after watching Trump deliver praise for some of the white supremacists at a violent protest in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. Biden vanquished fresher and more popular faces in a contentious 2020 Democratic primary on the promise that he was the most capable of unseating Trump. And he was sworn into the office just two weeks after the violent insurrection because he convinced Americans that he could turn the page on a turbulent four years.

Biden didn’t mention the former president by name even once in Thursday’s remarks. But he fired off zingers and reprimands aimed directly at Trump and the party that has increasingly cast itself in his image.

Trump, said Biden, is not just a former president, but a defeated one whose “bruised ego matters more to him than our democracy.”

The anniversary marked Biden’s most forceful condemnation of his predecessor, after a year in office spent trying, often unsuccessfully, to avoid talking about “the former guy.”

“I’m tired of talking about Donald Trump,” he said four weeks into his presidency. “I

don’t want to talk about him anymore.”

It is a paradox for the president: Biden is often at his best when he takes on Trump, yet talking about the former president also serves to elevate him in the national conversation.

There could well be a rematch in 2024. Biden, who has said he intends to seek another term, told ABC last month that he’s even more likely to run again if Trump is on the GOP ticket.

But there’s a simultaneous effort afoot to change how elections are run, and that could portend a very different dynamic in a contested election next time.

Republicans in numerous states are promoting efforts to influence future elections by installing sympathetic leaders in local election posts and they’re backing for elective office some of those who participated in the insurrection. Democrats, for their part, are pushing voting changes that would seek to undo those GOP efforts and enshrine in law other longtime Democratic priorities.

The violence on Jan. 6 was only a piece of the overall effort by pro-Trump allies to subvert the elec-



Capitol Police officers attend morning roll call Thursday, the first anniversary of the assault against Congress by supporters of Donald Trump. **AL DRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

tion. More than 50 lawsuits were filed in battleground states alleging some type of election fraud, a push that failed after judges named to the bench by many different presidents — including Trump — rejected the claims. The Justice Department launched an effort to investigate instances of widespread voter fraud, only to have former Attorney General William Barr tell the AP there was none.

Despite his insistent speech Thursday, Biden and other administration officials do not gener-

ally publicly dwell on the conspiracy theories around the election, in part because it gives fuel to the fire. And it’s widely expected that, despite Biden’s pledge to help push voting rights legislation to completion, he’s not going to look back at the events of 2020 much more. His belief is that he’s more likely to win over Trump supporters by governing, and doing it well, than by constantly re-litigating his presidential win.

As he left the Capitol on Thursday, Biden stopped to explain why he had decided

to so forcefully criticize Trump after shying away from it for so long. “The way you have to heal is you have to recognize the extent of the wound.”

“You’ve got to face it,” he added. “That’s what great nations do. They face the truth. Deal with it. And move on.”

Much as Biden would like to move on, though, the future of America’s democracy is now tethered to the events of the 2020 election and the ongoing fallout that show no signs of disappearing.

FBI still hunting for hundreds of Jan. 6 suspects, including pipe bomber

By Michael Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The suspect was covered from head to toe, skulking through the dark streets of the nation’s capital before methodically placing two explosives outside the offices of the Republican and Democratic national committees.

Only 17 hours later — and just before the U.S. Capitol was stormed by a sea of pro-Trump rioters — the

pipe bombs were discovered. It quickly became one of the highest-priority investigations for the FBI and the Justice Department.

But the trail grew cold almost immediately. A year later, federal investigators are no closer to learning the person’s identity.

The suspect is among hundreds of people still being sought by the FBI following last January’s deadly insurrection. So far, 250 people seen on video assaulting police at the Cap-

itol still haven’t been fully identified and apprehended by the FBI, and another 100 are being sought for other crimes tied to the riot.

More than 700 people have been charged with federal crimes stemming from the Jan. 6 attack, and arrests are still being made regularly.

Agents and investigative analysts have been poring over thousands of hours of surveillance video, going second by second in each video to try to capture

clear images of people who attacked officers inside the Capitol.

“This investigation takes time because it is a lot of lot of work, a lot of painstaking work that they look at the video kind of frame by frame,” said Steven D’Antuono, the assistant director in charge of the FBI’s field office in Washington.

In one case, police body camera footage captures a man using a cane with electric prods on the end jabbing at officers and shocking

them as they fight to hold back the riotous crowd trying to break through a barricaded line of officers at one of the doors of the Capitol.

The man, known only as “AFO114” — using shorthand for “assaulting a federal officer” — is still being sought.

In the search for the person who left the pipe bombs at the RNC and DNC offices, investigators have interviewed more than 900 people, collected 39,000 video files and examined

more than 400 leads. They have dived into the components of the explosives and have been working to try to discern anything they can about the suspect, from analyzing the person’s gait to trying to collect information about purchases of the distinctive Nike sneakers the person wore.

But they are still no closer to finding the suspect’s identity and are hoping renewed attention on the video of the person may spark a tip to crack the case.

WORLD & NATION

EU tries to rein in Hungary’s Orban

After years of giving in to him, bloc now views PM as a threat

By Steven Erlanger and Benjamin Novak
The New York Times

BRUSSELS — After long indulging him, leaders in the European Union now widely consider Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary an existential threat to a bloc that holds itself up as a model of human rights and the rule of law.

Orban has spent the past decade steadily building his “illiberal state,” as he calls Hungary, with the help of lavish EU funding. Even as his project widened fissures in the bloc, which Hungary joined in 2004, his fellow national leaders mostly looked the other way, committed to staying out of one another’s affairs.

But Orban’s defiance and intransigence has had an important, if unintended, effect: serving as a catalyst for an often-sluggish EU system to act to safeguard democratic principles that underpin the bloc.

Early this year, the European Court of Justice will issue a landmark decision on whether the union has the authority to make its funds to member states conditional on meeting the bloc’s core values. Doing so would allow Brussels to deny billions of euros to countries that violate those values.

The bloc has consistently worked on political consensus among national leaders. But Orban has pushed Brussels toward a threshold it had long avoided: making membership subject to financial punishments, not merely political ones.

The new frontier could help solve an old problem — what to do about bad actors in its ranks — while creating new ones. Not least, it could invite the European Commission, the bloc’s execu-



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban leaves a European Union summit in Brussels. The 27-nation bloc holds itself up as a model of human rights and the rule of law, but it’s also funded what Orban calls his “illiberal state.” **OLIVIER HOSLET/EPA**

utive branch, to exercise a new level of interference in the affairs of member states.

How Orban has forced the EU to such a juncture, and why it seemed helpless to stop him for so long, says much about the bloc’s founding assumptions and why it has stumbled in the face of populist and nationalist challenges.

Interviews with more than a dozen current and former European officials show how sentiments toward Orban and his illiberal project evolved from complacency and incomprehension to a recognition that he had become a serious internal threat — despite Hungary having fewer people than the Paris metropolitan area and a language that it bears no relationship to those of its neighbors.

The willful neglect was encapsulated in 2015 at a meeting, when Jean-Claude Juncker, then the European Commission’s president,

saw Orban arriving and said, “The dictator is coming,” before giving him a friendly pat on the face.

No one in power wanted to confront Orban over issues like rule of law and corruption — especially not his fellow national leaders, who each have a seat on the powerful European Council. “At the council myself I felt the reluctance of Orban’s peers to deal with these kind of issues,” said Luuk van Middelaar, an aide to Herman Van Rompuy when he was council president. He added that the council was “like a club, where Viktor is just one of them — and they are political animals, and they respect each other for the simple fact of having won an election.”

Orban faces new elections this spring against a formally united but very diverse set of opposition parties. But he has become a model for the politics of identity and religion, not just in Poland but in the

United States, as well.

On Monday, former President Donald Trump endorsed Orban for reelection, pledging “complete support.” Orban was an early supporter of Trump, endorsing him in the summer of 2016 and again in 2020.

Some European lawmakers recognized early that Orban was trampling on democratic norms but were stymied by national leaders, particularly those from the European People’s Party, the powerful center-right political grouping that has dominated the European Parliament for the past decade.

When Orban proposed — and later introduced — a new constitution that violated European principles, Didier Reynders, then Belgium’s minister of foreign and European affairs, said he tried to raise the problem in a meeting with EU leaders in 2011 but was shut down.

“The reaction was that

this is not an issue for the member states,” said Reyn- ders, who is now the EU commissioner for justice.

Orban’s party adopted the new constitution and a new media law that curbed press freedom. It overhauled the country’s justice system, removed the head of its Supreme Court and created an office to oversee the courts led by the wife of a prominent member of the governing party, Fidesz. Election laws were changed to favor the party.

External factors strengthened Orban as well, including in 2015 when a record number of migrants made their way to Europe and when the right-wing Law and Justice party of Jaroslaw Kaczynski came to power in Poland. He suddenly had an ally there, and his tough stance against migrants won him support elsewhere too.

Orban “was suddenly standing for more than Hungary but for wider issues

of migration, with support in Germany and Austria and the other Central European states, and that gave him power,” said Mark Leonard, the director of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

It has helped Orban that the EU has few and ineffective instruments for punishing a backsliding nation. Even the Lisbon Treaty, which gave enhanced powers to the European Parliament, has essentially one unusable tool: Article 7, which can remove a country’s voting rights, but only if passed by unanimity.

In 2017, Frans Timmermans, then the European Commission first vice president responsible for the rule of law, initiated the article against Poland. The European Parliament did the same against Hungary in 2018.

But both measures inevitably stalled because the two countries protect each other.

The treaty also allows the commission to bring infringement procedures — legal charges — against member states for violating EU law. But the process is slow, involving letters and responses and appeals, and final decisions are up to the European Court of Justice. Most cases are settled before reaching the court.

But according to studies by R. Daniel Kelemen of Rutgers University and Tommaso Pavone of the University of Oslo, the commission sharply reduced infringement cases after the addition of new member states in 2004.

With taxpayer money at stake, the next seven-year budget in the balance and the disregard for shared values shown by Orban and Kaczynski on leaders’ minds, Brussels may have finally found a useful tool to affect domestic politics, with a mix of lawsuits charging infringement of European treaties combined with severe financial consequences.

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WORLD & NATION

JAN. 6 INSURRECTION ONE YEAR LATER

Trump maintains grip on GOP base

Ex-president sticks to ‘the big lie’ 1 year after Capitol attack

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As a raging band of his supporters scaled walls, smashed windows, used flagpoles to beat police and breached the U.S. Capitol in a bid to overturn a free and fair election, Donald Trump’s excommunication from the Republican Party seemed a near certainty, his name tarnished beyond repair.

Some of his closest allies, including Fox News Channel hosts like Laura Ingraham, warned that day that Trump was “destroying” his legacy.

“All I can say is count me out. Enough is enough,” said his friend and confidant Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader who worked with Trump to reshape the judiciary, later denounced him as “morally responsible” for the attack.

But one year later, Trump is hardly a leader in exile. Instead, he is a leading contender for the 2024 presidential nomination.

Trump is positioning himself as a powerful force in the primary campaigns that will determine who gets the party’s backing heading into the fall midterms, when control of Congress, governor’s offices and state election posts are at stake. At least for now, there’s little stopping Trump as he makes unbending fealty to his vision of the GOP a litmus test for success in primary races, giving ambitious Republicans little incentive to cross him.

“Let’s just say I’m horrendously disappointed,” said former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, a longtime Republican who now serves on the advisory committee of the Renew



Supporters flock to see former President Donald Trump at a rally Oct. 9 in Des Moines, Iowa. THOMAS BEAUMONT/AP 2021

America Movement, a group trying to wrest the party away from Trump’s control.

“His ego was never going to let him accept defeat and go quietly into the night,” she added. “But what I am surprised by is how deferential so many of the Republican elected officials” have been.

Rather than expressing any contrition for the events of Jan. 6, Trump often seems emboldened and has continued to lie about his 2020 election loss. He frequently — and falsely — says the “real” insurrection was Nov. 3, the date of the 2020 election when Democrat Joe Biden won in a 306-232 Electoral College victory and by a 7 million popular vote margin.

Federal and state election officials and Trump’s own attorney general have said

there is no credible evidence the election was tainted. The former president’s allegations of fraud were also rejected by courts, including by judges Trump appointed.

For Trump, the outcome is the product of sheer will and a misinformation campaign that began long before the election, when he insisted the only way he could lose was if the election was “rigged.” His refusal to accept reality has flourished with the acquiescence of most GOP leaders, who tend to overlook the gravity of the insurrection for fear of fracturing a party whose base remains tightly aligned with Trump and his effort to minimize the severity of what happened on Jan. 6.

The situation has stunned and depressed critics in both political parties who were convinced the insurrection

would force Republicans to abandon the Trump era once and for all. He became the first president in U.S. history to be impeached twice. The second impeachment centered on his role in sparking the insurrection, but Trump was acquitted in a Senate trial, an indication that he would face few consequences for his actions.

“There was this hope when we were in the safe room that we would go back and the Republicans would see how crazy this was, how fragile our democracy was, what President Trump had done, and that they would renounce that and we would all come together,” said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., describing the events that day. Instead, she said, “there were people defending the insurrectionists and defend-

ing Trump and continuing with the challenge and the big lie.”

Others, however, point to fractures that suggest Trump’s power is waning.

Banned from Twitter and denied his other social media megaphones, Trump no longer controls the news cycle like he did in office.

He canceled a news conference that was scheduled for Thursday following pressure from some Republican allies, who warned that such an event was ill-advised.

During last year’s most prominent elections, Republicans such as Virginia gubernatorial nominee Glenn Youngkin kept Trump at arm’s length. Youngkin’s victory created a possible model for candidates running in battleground states where suburban

voters uncomfortable with Trump are a key bloc.

Trump is also facing a flurry of investigations, including in New York, where prosecutors are investigating whether his real estate company misled banks and tax officials about the value of his assets, inflating them to gain favorable loan terms or minimizing them to reap tax savings. New York Attorney General Letitia James’ office confirmed this week that it has subpoenaed Trump and his two eldest children, Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr., as part of an investigation into the family’s business practices.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, the Jan. 6 committee continues to investigate the Trump White House’s involvement in the deadly insurrection.

NEWS BRIEFING

WHO: Record weekly jump seen in COVID-19 cases, but fewer deaths

From news services

GENEVA — The World Health Organization said Thursday that a record 9.5 million COVID-19 cases were tallied over the last week as the omicron variant of the coronavirus swept the planet, a 71% increase from the previous 7-day period that the U.N. health agency likened to a “tsunami.” However, the number of weekly recorded deaths declined.

“Last week, the highest number of COVID-19 cases were reported so far in the pandemic,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

In its weekly report on the pandemic, the agency said the weekly count amounted to 9,520,488 new cases — with 41,178 deaths recorded last week compared to 44,680 in the week before that.

WHO officials have long cited a lag between case counts and deaths, with changes in the death counts often trailing about two weeks behind the evolution of case counts. But they have also noted that for several reasons — including rising vaccination rates in some places, and signs that latest variant affects the nose and throat more than the lungs — omicron has not appeared as deadly as the delta variant that preceded it.

Any rise in hospitalizations or deaths in the wake of the latest surge in cases isn’t likely to show up for about two weeks.

While omicron seems less severe than delta, especially among people who have been vaccinated, the WHO chief cautioned: “It does not mean it should be categorized as mild. Just like previous variants, omicron is hospitalizing people, and it’s killing people.”

“In fact, the tsunami of

cases is so huge and quick that it is overwhelming health systems around the world,” the WHO chief said.

WHO officials called on the public to step up measures to fight the pandemic like getting vaccinated, ventilating rooms, maintaining proper physical distancing and wearing masks properly.

Boston Marathon bomber: Federal prosecutors want convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to use a \$1,400 COVID-19 stimulus payment he received as well as other money held in his inmate trust account to help pay the millions of dollars he was ordered to pay his victims.

In a filing Wednesday, the U.S. attorney’s office in Boston asked a judge to order the federal Bureau of Prisons to turn the money over to the Clerk of the Court “as payment towards his outstanding criminal monetary penalties, including unpaid special assessment and restitution.”

In addition to the stimulus payment, Tsarnaev, who’s being held at a maximum security prison in Florence, Colorado, has received money from dozens of sources during his incarceration, according to the filing by acting U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Nathaniel Mendell.

Tsarnaev was convicted in 2015 of 30 charges in connection with the 2013 bombing at the Boston Marathon finish line that killed three spectators and injured more than 260 others.

In 2016 he was ordered to pay a \$3,000 special assessment and more than \$101 million in criminal restitution.

So far, Tsarnaev has paid a little more than \$2,200 of



Apilgrim holds up a cross during a ceremony marking the Christian holiday of Epiphany on Thursday near Athens, Greece. Celebrations to mark what’s also known as Three Kings Day for Catholics and the Baptism of Christ for the Orthodox were canceled or scaled back in Greece amid a surge in COVID-19 infections driven by the omicron variant. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/AP

that, all toward the assessment, according to the filing.

Ex-columnist off ballot: Oregon’s secretary of state ruled Thursday that former New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof is not eligible to run for governor because he does not meet the state’s residency requirement.

According to Oregon law, a candidate must have been a resident of the state for at least three years before an election.

Kristof voted in New York in November 2020, raising questions about his eligibility to run in Oregon in November.

The Oregon Elections Division said it notified the Kristof campaign of the decision.

The 62-year-old Kristof, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, retired from the newspaper last year.

U.S. rabies deaths in 2021: Five Americans died of rabies last year, the largest

number in a decade, health officials said Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report on three of the deaths, all stemming from contact with bats.

An 80-year-old Illinois man refused to take life-saving shots because of a long-standing fear of vaccines. An Idaho man and a Texas boy did not get shots because of a belief that no bat bite or scratch broke their skin.

A Minnesota man got the shots after being bitten by a bat, but an undiagnosed immune system problem hampered effectiveness, CDC officials said. The other victim was bitten by a rabid dog while in the Philippines and died in New York.

An estimated 60,000 Americans are treated each year after possible exposure to rabies, the CDC says.

There were no rabies deaths reported in 2019 or 2020.

Outbreak in Japan: Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa

Hayashi on Thursday asked that the U.S. military in Japan stay inside its bases to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Hayashi said he spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and was promised utmost efforts to ensure people’s health. It was not immediately clear if a base curfew would be issued.

Maj. Thomas R. Barger, a U.S. Forces in Japan spokesperson, said he could not comment on the request.

Hayashi’s request came as the U.S. military is promising more stringent measures to curb spreading cases.

The new measures require all personnel, even when fully vaccinated, to wear masks on base until a third negative coronavirus test, and reiterate an order for all to wear masks when off base, Barger said.

Israeli lawmaker ripped: An Israeli deputy minister was under fire Thursday for calling residents of an unauthorized West Bank settlement

outpost “subhuman.”

Yair Golan, a former deputy military chief and a member of the dovish Meretz party, has previously prompted a backlash for comments appearing to liken the atmosphere in Israel to that of Nazi-era Germany.

“These are not people, these are subhumans. Despicable people and the corruption of the Jewish people. They must not be given any backing,” Golan told the Knesset Channel.

Golan, the deputy economy minister, was referring to Jewish settlers from an illegal outpost in the West Bank, which was evacuated as part of Israel’s 2005 withdrawal from the Gaza Strip but where settlers have repeatedly rebuilt structures. Settlers and their supporters have also clashed with Palestinians.

Golan said he was referring to settlers suspected of having defaced a nearby Muslim cemetery, which he likened to a “pogrom.”

WORLD & NATION



The Thwaites glacier in Antarctica is about the size of Florida and is putting roughly 50 billion tons of ice in the water annually. DAVID VAUGHAN/BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY 2020

Scientists on mission to probe Antarctica ‘doomsday’ glacier

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

A team of scientists is sailing to “the place in the world that’s the hardest to get to” so they can better figure out how much and how fast seas will rise because of global warming eating away at Antarctica’s ice.

Thirty-two scientists on Thursday are starting a more than two-month mission aboard an American research ship to investigate the crucial area where the massive but melting Thwaites glacier faces the Amundsen Sea and may eventually lose large amounts of ice because of warm water. The Florida-sized glacier has gotten the nickname the “doomsday glacier” because of how much ice it has and how much seas could rise if it all melts — more than 2 feet over hundreds of years.

Because of its importance, the United States and the United Kingdom are in the midst of a mission to study Thwaites, the widest glacier in the world by land and sea. Not near any of the continent’s research stations, Thwaites is on

Antarctica’s western half, east of the jutting Antarctic Peninsula.

“Thwaites is the main reason I would say that we have so large an uncertainty in the projections of future sea level rise and that is because it’s a very remote area, difficult to reach,” Anna Wahlin, an oceanographer from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, said Wednesday from the Research Vessel Nathaniel B. Palmer, which was scheduled to leave its port in Chile. “It is configured in a way so that it’s potentially unstable.”

Thwaites is putting about 50 billion tons of ice into the water a year. The British Antarctic Survey says the glacier is responsible for 4% of global sea rise.

Oregon State University ice scientist Erin Pettit said Thwaites appears to be collapsing in three ways:

- Melting from below by ocean water.
- The land part of the glacier “is losing its grip” to the place it attaches to the seabed, so a large chunk can come off into the ocean and later melt.
- The glacier’s ice shelf is breaking into hundreds of

fractures like a damaged car windshield. This is what Pettit said she fears will be the most troublesome with 6-mile-long cracks forming in just a year.

No one has stepped foot on the key ice-water interface at Thwaites before. In 2019, Wahlin was on a team that explored the area from a ship using a robotic ship but never went ashore.

Wahlin’s team will use two robot ships — her own large one called Ran which she used in 2019 and the more agile Boaty McBoatface, the crowd-source-named drone that could go further under the area of Thwaites that protrudes over the ocean.

The ship-bound scientists will be measuring water temperature, the sea floor and ice thickness. They’ll look at cracks in the ice, how the ice is structured and tag seals on islands off the glacier.

Thwaites “looks different from other ice shelves,” Wahlin said. “It almost looks like a jumble of icebergs that have been pressed together. So it’s increasingly clear that this is not a solid piece of ice like the other ice shelves are.”

Dozens dead as unrest rocks Kazakhstan, authorities say

By Jim Heintz
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Security forces in Kazakhstan killed dozens of protesters and 12 police officers died in an eruption of violence that saw demonstrators storm government buildings and set them on fire, authorities said Thursday.

One police officer was found beheaded in the unrest, which poses a growing challenge to authoritarian rule in the former Soviet republic.



Violence grips Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan, on Thursday, a day after clashes left dozens dead. Above, a destroyed vehicle. ALEXANDER BOGDANOV/GETTY-AFP

Despite the severe response by authorities Wednesday, protesters took to the streets again Thursday in the country’s largest city, Almaty, a day after breaking into the presidential residence and the mayor’s office there.

Police were also out in force, including in the capital of Nur-Sultan, which was reported quiet, and a Russian-led force of peace-keeping troops was on its way.

Video from the Russian news agency Tass showed police firing on a street near Republic Square, where demonstrators had gathered, though they could not be seen in the footage. Late Thursday, Tass said protesters had been swept from the square but that sporadic gunfire in the area continued.

Earlier, Russia’s Sputnik news service reported that shots were fired as police surrounded a group of about 200 protesters in the city.

In the unrest Wednesday, “dozens of attackers were liquidated,” police spokeswoman Saltanat Azirbek told state news channel Khabar-24. Twelve police officers were killed and 353 injured, the channel reported, citing city officials. The Interior Ministry said 2,000 people were arrested.

Tens of thousands of people, some reported to be carrying clubs and shields, have taken to the streets in recent days in the worst protests the country has seen since gaining independence from the Soviet Union three decades ago.

The demonstrations began over a near-doubling of prices for a type of vehicle fuel, but seemed to reflect wider discontent in the country, which has been under the rule of the same party since independence.

In a concession, the government Thursday announced a 180-day price cap on vehicle fuel and a moratorium on utility rate increases.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has vacillated between trying to mollify the protesters, including accepting the resignation of his government, and promising harsh measures to quell the unrest, which he blamed on “terrorist bands.”

Severe interruptions to internet and cellphone service made it difficult and sometimes impossible for news of what was happening inside Kazakhstan to get out. The airports in Almaty and one other city were shut down.

Worries that a broader crackdown could be on the horizon grew after Tokayev

called on a Russia-led military alliance for help.

The alliance, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, includes the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The operation is its first military action, an indication that Kazakhstan’s neighbors are concerned the unrest could spread.

Russia and Kazakhstan share close relations and a 4,700-mile border, much of it along open steppes. Russia’s Baikonur Cosmodrome space center is in Kazakhstan.

The CSTO’s general secretary, Stanislav Zas, told Russia’s RIA-Novosti news agency that the full contingent to be sent as peacekeepers would number about 2,500.

He rejected as “complete stupidity” suggestions that the troops would act as occupiers rather than peacekeepers. “The sincere wish of our states is real help for Kazakhstan in the difficult situation,” he said.

However, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the U.S. has “questions about the nature of this request and whether it was a legitimate invitation or not.”

“The world will, of course, be watching,” she said.

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Fox, Hannity face ethical issues over Trump texts

House committee investigating Jan. 6 insurrection seeks testimony from host

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — For years, Sean Hannity has skirted ethical boundaries with his role on a television network with “news” in its name.

Yet it’s never been as stark as now, with the committee investigating last year’s Capitol insurrection seeking his testimony.

The Jan. 6 select committee has revealed a series of texts where Hannity privately advised former President Donald Trump before, during and after the assault, and is seeking his insight about what happened in those days.

The Fox News Channel prime-time host hasn’t said what he will do, but he’s slammed the congressional probe as a partisan witch hunt. His lawyer has raised First Amendment concerns about the request.

It’s not unheard of for journalists to offer advice to politicians — history records Ben Bradlee’s friendship with former President John F. Kennedy — but such actions raise questions about their independence

and allegiance to the public interest, said Jane Kirtley, director of the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law at the University of Minnesota.

Just last month, CNN fired prime-time host Chris Cuomo when it became clear his efforts to advise his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, were more extensive than previously acknowledged.

In one text revealed by the committee this week, Hannity wrote to Trump’s former chief of staff, Mark Meadows, on Dec. 31, 2020, that “we can’t lose the entire WH counsel’s office” and said Trump should announce he was leading a nationwide effort to reform voting integrity.

In a previously-revealed text, Hannity urged Trump on Jan. 6, 2021, to tell people to leave the Capitol peacefully.

On Jan. 10, Hannity texted Meadows that Trump should never mention the election again — advice Trump clearly didn’t take.

Noting that Hannity had texted Jan. 5 that he was “very worried about the next 48 hours,” Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee chair, said he wanted to know

what concerned the host.

It was widely reported during the Trump administration that Hannity spoke frequently with the president. The texts to Meadows put specificity to some of the communications.

Hannity’s identity as a conservative talk show host has been locked in for two decades, both as a prime-time host on Fox News Channel and on talk radio.

His identity as a journalist has been murkier.

Fox refers to him as an opinion host.

In 2016, Hannity told The New York Times that “I never claimed to be a journalist.”

A year later, he told the same newspaper that “I’m a journalist. But I’m an advocacy journalist, or an opinion journalist.”

He conducts interviews on his program, sometimes with people he’s been privately advising.

Fox News executives have not immediately commented on the revelations of what Hannity has been texting Meadows or criticism about his or the network’s ethics.

Trade gap widens in November to \$80.2B

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit surged to a near-record high of \$80.2 billion in November as exports slowed at the same time that imports jumped sharply.

The November deficit was 19.3% higher than the October deficit of \$67.2 billion and was just below the all-time monthly record of \$81.4 billion set in September, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

November imports, goods Americans bought from other countries, jumped 4.6% to \$304.4 billion in November while exports, those the U.S. sends overseas, edged up 0.2% to \$224.2 billion.

Through the first 11 months of 2021, the U.S. trade deficit is 28.6% higher than during the same period last year with the economic recovery in the United States outpacing other nations, as is the readiness of Americans to spend.

For all of 2020, the U.S. trade deficit stood at \$676.7 billion, a slight 0.1% above the 2019 figure.

The politically sensitive deficit with China in goods rose 2.9% to \$32.3 billion in November and is up 12.8% for the first 11 months of this year compared to the same period in 2020.

Michael Pierce, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said the sharp jump in November’s trade deficit means trade will be a small drag on the overall U.S. economy in the October-December quarter.

Pierce forecast growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, would be around 4.5% in the fourth quarter, an improvement from the modest 2.3% in the third quarter but below expectations for much stronger growth before the omicron variant hit. Other economists are more optimistic, predicting growth of between 6% and 7% in the October-December period.



Leah McGowen-Hare came up with pins a person can wear to indicate comfort with social interaction. SASHA MASLOV/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pins, bands make statements

With workplaces reopening, subtle attire silently signals workers’ personal boundaries

By Emma Goldberg
The New York Times

Leah McGowen-Hare wants you to know one thing about her: She is a hugger. If you just met, she’ll give you a hug. If you are a Salesforce client, she’ll give you a hug. If you are considering signing up for Salesforce’s services then you, too, are in line for a hug. She extended a virtual hug in the middle of a recent video call.

But McGowen-Hare, a vice president at Salesforce, realized that even the people who are with her on Team Hug might have changed their calculation on what is too close for comfort these days. So for Salesforce’s convention in September — which she likened to a family reunion — she landed on a solution, something to separate the huggers from the mere fist-bumpers.

The 1,000 attendees of the San Francisco conference were greeted with three options for pins to wear. Green: OK to hug. Yellow: Let’s do the elbow/fist bump. Red: Let’s wave hello.

More than three months since Sales-

force’s conference, public health conditions have shifted; with omicron spreading fast, hugging and fist-bumping might seem even less enticing. Still, plenty of corporate workers are required to be in their offices, or are returning in the coming months with new vaccine and testing rules in place.

At some workplaces, colorful wristbands have offered a way for people emerging from nearly two years of relative isolation to silently communicate their boundaries. As an added bonus, wristband companies whose sales plunged in 2020, when events ground to a halt, are pleased to find business picking up again. A Wisconsin company, for example, has sold tens of millions of COVID-related bands to more than 3,000 organizations over the past 18 months.

For Wristband Resources, which is based outside Milwaukee, the second Friday in March 2020 was “D-Day.” There were no more concerts, nor festivals or school retreats. Mike Gengler, the chief information officer, was shuttling between his home and the office, but he didn’t know what to instruct his employees to do. Sales dropped to nearly zero for the company, which has 140 people on staff.

About two weeks later, orders began to trickle in again. Gengler checked the delivery addresses to see where his wristbands

were shipping and he found an unlikely culprit: commercial construction. These first-time Wristband Resources clients, which were reopening their construction sites, wanted an easy way to signify the employees who had completed their temperature screenings for the day.

It was a eureka moment for Gengler and his team, who realized the pandemic could shepherd in unexpected uses for a multi-colored set of wristbands. By that summer, his company was shipping wristbands to hundreds of offices as they reopened. Wristband Resources ended 2020 without any losses in online retailing; COVID-related wristbands made up about 60% of its revenue. The company finished 2021 with better online sales than it had in 2019.

Businesses that want more high-tech COVID protective measures have choices. Cisco, for example, which has made its return to the office optional, equipped its conference rooms with technology that notifies people when they have exceeded the maximum occupancy limit.

But some executives said they have found it easiest to let workers communicate their office comfort levels, and colorful wristbands allow for that tailored approach. Workers can elect for green wristbands one week, then swap out for red ones the next.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Jobless claims inch to 207,000

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose last week but remained at historically low levels, suggesting that the job market remains strong.

U.S. jobless claims rose by 7,000 last week to 207,000. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week gyrations, rose by nearly 4,800 to just below 205,000. Despite the increases, the numbers show that weekly claims are below the 220,000 typical before the pandemic struck the U.S. economy in March 2020.

The omicron variant does not appear to have triggered significant layoffs.

Altogether, nearly 1.8 million Americans were collecting traditional unemployment aid the week that ended Dec. 25.

Mortgage rates rise, but still low

WASHINGTON — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates rose in the past week to start the new year. They reached their highest level since May 2020, at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, yet remained historically low.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average rate on the benchmark 30-year home loan increased to 3.22% this week from 3.11% last week. A year ago, the 30-year rate stood at 2.65%. The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, popular among those refinancing their homes, rose to 2.43% from 2.33% last week.

Many economists expect mortgage rates to rise this year after the Federal Reserve announced last month that it would begin dialing back its monthly bond purchases.

France fines Google, Facebook over tracking

By Kelvin Chan
Associated Press

LONDON — French regulators Thursday fined Google and Facebook a total of more than \$230 million for not making it as easy for people to opt out of online tracking as it is for them to accept it.

The CNIL data privacy watchdog said it found that while the U.S. online giants gave French users one button to accept cookies, there wasn’t an equally simple way for them to decline because “several clicks are required to refuse all cookies.”

Cookies are snippets of code used to target internet users for digital ads and other purposes. European governments have stricter regulations than the U.S. that

require websites to ask for permission before tracking a user’s activity. That means people face pop-up menus when they visit new websites, but there’s been growing concern that many are configured to make it confusing or tedious if they don’t want to give consent.

Visitors to Facebook, Google’s French homepage and YouTube were being nudged to say yes, which meant they weren’t freely giving their consent, a violation of French data protection rules, the CNIL said.

The French watchdog slapped Google with a \$170 million penalty and Facebook with a \$68 million fine. It also threatened daily fines of about \$112,000, if they don’t make it simpler for users in France to refuse cookies within three months.

Facebook, which has been renamed Meta, said it’s reviewing the decision.

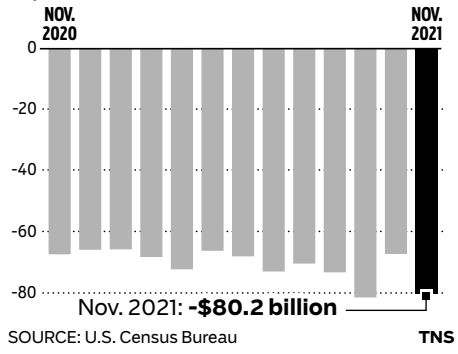
“Our cookie consent controls provide people with greater control over their data, including a new settings menu on Facebook and Instagram where people can revisit and manage their decisions at any time, and we continue to develop and improve these controls,” the company said.

Google said: “People trust us to respect their right to privacy and keep them safe. We understand our responsibility to protect that trust and are committing to further changes and active work with the CNIL in light of this decision.”

Cookies have been a longstanding source of privacy concerns because they can be employed to track users across the internet.

Trade deficit

U.S. exports minus imports, in billions, by month, seasonally adjusted:



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

TNS

BUSINESS



The Danzhou government has ordered the demolition of the Evergrande project on the southern island province of Hainan. Above, a section of the resort complex. CHINATOPIX 2019

Troubled Chinese developer told to raze resort complex

By Joe McDonald
Associated Press

BEIJING — A troubled Chinese real estate developer that is struggling with \$310 billion in debt said this week that it has been ordered to demolish a 39-building resort complex in a new blow to its finances.

Evergrande Group gave no explanation, but news reports said the government of Danzhou, a city on the southern island province of Hainan, found it was improperly built and violated urban planning law.

Evergrande's struggle to comply with tighter official restrictions on use of borrowed money by China's real estate industry have prompted fears of a possible default and financial crisis. Chinese regulators have tried to reassure investors that any potential impact on financial markets can be contained.

Evergrande is also asking investors in one of its bonds to postpone when they will be repaid.

Evergrande Group will conduct a three-day online vote starting Friday for holders of the \$700 million bond, according to

an announcement made through the Shenzhen Stock Exchange in southern China.

Evergrande said the bond is due to mature in January 2023. It gave no indication how long investors would be asked to postpone repayment.

Economists say Beijing can keep Chinese lending markets functioning normally in the event of an Evergrande default, which looks likely. However, they say Chinese leaders want to avoid sending the wrong signal by arranging a bailout at a time when they are trying to force companies to reduce surging debt levels.

The company gave no indication of the possible loss from the demolition of the buildings on Ocean Flower Island. It said other buildings on the island weren't affected by the order.

Evergrande, the global real estate industry's most-heavily-indebted developer, warned last month it might run out of cash to keep up with debt payments and other obligations.

The company says it has \$350 billion in assets and \$310 billion in debt,

but it has struggled to sell assets fast enough to keep up payments to bondholders. Construction of some projects was temporarily suspended after contractors complained they weren't being paid.

Tuesday's announcement said buyers in 2021 signed contracts to purchase property worth a total of \$70 billion.

Beijing tightened restrictions on developers last year in a campaign to rein in corporate debt that is seen as a threat to economic stability. The ruling Communist Party has made reducing financial risk a priority since 2018.

The Danzhou government's order said Evergrande's project violated a national urban planning law. It said the government will organize demolition if the company fails to act.

The Hainan government ordered an investigation last year of Ocean Flower Island, a complex of hotels, an amusement park and other facilities, according to news reports. They said some building permissions were revoked and fines of \$34 million were imposed for planning and construction violations.

Fanatics buys Topps trading cards in a deal worth \$500M

By Lauren Hirsch
The New York Times

Topps, the business that put bubble gum together with baseball cards more than a half-century ago, now belongs to a fast-growing sports memorabilia empire that nearly knocked Topps out of the baseball-card game.

Topps announced Tuesday that it had sold its sports card business to Fanatics, a multibillion-dollar, 10-year-old company whose licensing business was built on sports fandom, technology and networking. The deal values Topps' sports and entertainment division at slightly more than \$500 million, according to people with knowledge of the situation, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Topps had previously announced a deal to go public. But in August, the company was blindsided when it lost its licensing agreement with Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association to Fanatics, putting its future in doubt. Fanatics and Topps began discussing the acquisition of Topps' card business roughly a month later, a person familiar with the situation said.

"Topps is synonymous with card collecting—it's the primary brand that people think of when you think of baseball cards and sports cards," said Chris Ivy, the director of sports auctions for Heritage Auctions. "So the fact that they will be continuing going forward, I think is a great thing both for collectors and the industry as a whole."

The Topps deal mirrors Fanatics' purchase of the apparel company Majestic, which it acquired after winning the rights to make major-league uniforms, contracts that Majestic had previously won. The deal



Topps sold its sports card business to Fanatics, the 10-year-old sports memorabilia empire. THE NEW YORK TIMES 2020

announced Tuesday also underscores the breadth of businesses Fanatics has built, aiming to grow beyond ticketing and television, both of which are difficult to expand rapidly.

Topps cards will still carry the Topps logo, and the division's roughly 350 employees will work for the Topps brand independently within Fanatics. But longer term, Fanatics hopes to create for Topps the digital agility that helped transform its licensed apparel business.

Fanatics started its playing card business last year, around the same time it struck deals with unions for NFL and NBA players to produce football and basketball trading cards. The business raised \$350 million in September in a deal that valued it at more than \$10 billion. With the acquisition of Topps, Fanatics has the right to design, manufacture and distribute baseball cards starting immediately.

Michael Rubin, the CEO of Fanatics, called trading cards and collectibles "a significant pillar" in the company's plans to become a "leading digital sports platform." Rubin, whose circle includes Jay-Z and baseball commissioner Rob Manfred, has in the past decade created a licensing and

manufacturing company valued at \$18 billion. Beyond hoodies and hats, Fanatics has also begun gambling and video game businesses.

Its bet on trading cards reflects a pandemic-driven interest in memorabilia. In January, a Mickey Mantle card sold for \$5.2 million. In August, a Honus Wagner card sold for \$6.6 million. In October, a Michael Jordan card sold for \$2.7 million.

Topps has ridden that wave, bringing in record sales of \$567 million in 2020, a 23% jump over the previous year.

Topps was started in Brooklyn in 1938 as Topps Chewing Gum, an effort to revive a struggling family tobacco distribution business. A little over a decade later, it began to package its gum with "Magic Photo Cards," which featured Babe Ruth and other baseball stars. It started its annual set of baseball cards in 1952.

In 2007, Topps was acquired for \$385 million by Tornante, an investment firm founded by Michael Eisner, the former Walt Disney Co. CEO, and the private equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners. Topps then started Topps Now, which sells of-the-moment cards to capture a defining play or a pop culture meme.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, January 7, 2022

↓ DOW

36,236.47 -170.64

↑ 10-YR T-BOND

1.73% +0.3

↓ GOLD

\$1,788.70 -35.90

36,960

36,360

35,760

37,600

36,800

36,000

35,200

34,400

33,600

10 DAYS

Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 36,236.47

Change: -170.64 (-0.5%)

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	79.46	77.85	+5.65%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.81	3.88	+2.20%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.30	2.29	+3.41%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,788.70	1,824.60	-2.12%
Silver (oz)	22.17	23.15	-4.95%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3525	.7393
Canada	.7856	1.2730
China	.1567	6.3830
Euro	1.1288	.8859
Japan	.008624	115.96
Mexico	.048750	20.5128

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.10	0.08	
6-mo. T-Bill	0.23	0.23	
5-yr T-Note	1.47	1.37	
10-yr T-Note	1.73	1.66	
30-yr T-Bond	2.09	2.07	

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	16,052.03	-219.72	-1.35%	+1.05%
London	7,450.37	-66.50	-.88%	+.89%
Hong Kong	23,072.86	+165.61	+.72%	-1.39%
Nikkei	28,487.87	-844.29	-2.88%	-1.06%

Stocks of Local Interest						
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	22.46	-.29	-17.4	Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.99	...
AT&T Inc (T)	26.11	-.10	+6.1	Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	332.46	+8.29
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	136.23	+.08	-5.3	MetLife Inc (MET)	66.45	+1.82
Amphenol Corp (APH)	85.19	+.07	-2.6	Micron Tech (MU)	95.65	+1.25
Apple Inc (AAPL)	172.00	-2.92	-3.1	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	313.88	-2.50
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.66	-.27	-.4	Nikola Corp (NKLA)	10.21	+.33
Bank of America (BAC)	48.13	+.95	+8.2	Novartis AG (NVS)	88.29	+.26
Barnes Group (B)	48.01	+.09	+3.0	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	281.78	+5.74
Barrick Gold (GOLD)	18.02	-.55	-5.2	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	84.71	+.88
Bed Bath & Beyond (BBBY)	14.43	+.107	-1.0	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	16.74	-.22
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2429.97	+16.67	+1.3	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	19.87	+.76
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	61.48	-.14	-1.4	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	54.84	-.79
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	102.59	-3.22	-6.7	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.55	-.07
Carnival Corp (CCL)	21.07	-.10	+.4	Plug Power Inc (PLUG)	25.22	-1.05
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	53.50	+.113	-1.4	Plus Therapeutics (PSTV)	1.32	+.03
Charter Commun (CHTR)	631.95	+.709	-3.1	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	113.22	+1.82
Cigna Corp (CI)	227.54	-8.98	-.9	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	65.89	+.06
Citigroup (C)	64.91	+2.06	+7.5	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	90.06	+.49
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	50.51	-.29	+.4	Rivian Automotive A (RIVN)	87.33	-2.68
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	2.72	+.07	-12.5	Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	15.58	-.40
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	4.70	-.32	-5.6	Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.45	+.25
Disney (DIS)	156.90	+.171	+1.3	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	82.95	+.69
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	25.80	+1.15	-6.1	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	13.78	-.32
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	127.86	+.76	+.4	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	192.50	+.14
Eargo Inc (EAR)	7.28	+2.72	+42.7	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.97	+.12
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.68	+.24	+1.5	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.58	-.03
Eversource Energy (ES)	88.90	-.33	-2.3	Terex Corp (TEX)	46.18	+.15
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	68.32	+1.57	+11.7	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1064.70	-23.42
Ford Motor (F)	24.46	+.80	+17.8	Tilray Inc (TLRY)	6.44	-.19
Freeline Therapeutic (FRLN)	1.98	+.02	...	Travelers Cos (TRV)	162.33	+2.56
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.14	-.18	-1.2	Uber Technologies (UBER)	42.03	-1.21
Gen Dynamics (GD)	211.74	+.143	+1.6	United Rentals Group (UNH)	335.17	+.15
Gen Electric (GE)	99.95	+.58	+5.8	Verizon Comm (VZ)	53.76	-.26
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	71.50	+.114	+3.6	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	284.22	-2.03
Honeywell Intl (HON)	210.82	-.24	+1.1	Voya Financial (VOYA)	71.07	+.24
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.79	-.08	-.8	Webster Financial (WBS)	61.86	+2.51
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	24.11	-.19	-4.7	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	53.63	+1.34
Intel Corp (INTC)	54.01	+.14	+4.9	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1018.49	-.51
Kaival Brands Innov (KAVL)	.76	+.15	+2.4	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	49.02	+.35
Kaman (KAMN)	44.31	-.28	+12.1	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	72.82	+.05
Keycorp (KEY)	25.93	+1.26	+2.7	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	23.64	+.31
Kinross Gold (KGC)	5.36	-.24	-7.7			
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	72.59	+1.68	+6.3			
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	38.22	+1.54	+.4			
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.32	+1.28	-1.2			

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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Ivies take stand against freedom

By Tyler Cowen
Bloomberg Opinion

For anyone who believes that America's elite institutions of higher learning are taken far too seriously — and I count myself among the believers — the last two years have been bracing. Of course I am referring to COVID policy, in particular the current efforts of Princeton and Yale to restrict the off-campus movements of their students in fairly radical ways.

This week Yale sent out an email laying out requirements for returning students. According to the Yale Daily News, there will be a campuswide quarantine until Feb. 7, which may be extended. Furthermore, students “may not visit New Haven businesses or eat at local restaurants (even outdoors) except for curbside pickup.”

Meanwhile, in Princeton, the university issued this announcement on Dec. 27: “Beginning January 8 through mid-February, all undergraduate students who have returned to campus will not be permitted to travel outside of Mercer County or Plainsboro Township for personal reasons, except in extraordinary circumstances. ... We'll revisit and, if possible, revise this travel restriction by February 15.”

My first reaction, as someone who

teaches at George Mason University in northern Virginia, is to be amazed that the life of the Yale campus and the life of New Haven can be so readily separated. If Yale truly has evolved to be a separate enclave, then that is a sign of trouble, pandemic or not. My school is so integrated with the local community — including a large number of commuting students — that such a regulation would be unthinkable. Princeton at least is recognizing that the university and the town are pretty much inseparable.

My second reaction is that these two elite American institutions have lost their moorings. Can you imagine your school telling you not to leave the county? (Though Princeton sports teams are somehow exempted.)

If Princeton or Yale took the position that the current state of COVID is so potentially dangerous that the entire university must be shut down, that would at least be consistent (and, in March 2020, I agreed with that view). But these policies do not and indeed cannot insulate these universities from the outside world. The omicron strain is going to spread at Princeton and Yale regardless of whether students gather at Hoagie Haven or Modern Apizza.

The selectivity is stunning. The Princ-

eton policy restricts the travel of undergraduates, but what of the other people affiliated with the university, such as faculty, staff or contractors? The Yale policy prevents students from patronizing local New Haven businesses, but what if a professor wants to drive up to Cambridge?

The assumption seems to be that the virus spreads in particular ways that can be controlled by a university with virtually no enforcement apparatus. It is all but impossible to imagine an enforcement of these rules that is in any way universal and fair.

What about the risk from keeping the students together in dorms? Princeton has a 20-student limit on gatherings, but if the virus is that dangerous, can a group of 19 students be justified? Masks are useful, but they are not a cure-all and not always of sufficient quality. Keep in mind that as of last semester, when the more dangerous delta variant was dominant, Princeton's eating clubs were open.

Perhaps the strongest defense of these policies is this: Universities can only do so much. And if they don't want to shut down, at least they can institute rules to help limit the spread of the virus until the omicron wave passes.

I doubt these policies will significantly limit the spread of COVID. But my

objection is more fundamental: They put universities in the untenable position of both panicking about COVID and treating COVID as trivial.

Given the purpose of a university as an educational leader, a university that is hypocritical and rhetorically corrupt is failing outright.

The restrictions also show these universities as content to treat their students much worse than their faculty and staff — a faculty and staff that is typically older and thus more at risk for COVID. The liberty of Yale students to visit a local bookshop or grocer is less important than freedom of movement for faculty and administrators.

Imagine the reaction if a professor or a dean told a student: “I will go out and about and do largely as I please. But you have to stay on campus, so you do not infect me.” It would be considered outrageous, and rightly so.

Right now some of America's top universities are essentially sending that message — in the process telling the world that they are not morally serious. They should not be surprised, then, when the world starts believing them.

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Texas will test Trump's influence

By Jonathan Bernstein
Bloomberg Opinion

It's an election year — and Americans will be voting sooner than many people may realize. The first primary election is in Texas on March 1, fewer than two months away.

While there will be a handful of important Democratic primaries, the big news is coming on the Republican side for several reasons. For one thing, with Republicans expected to have a good year, their nominees simply matter more, since they're more likely to be elected and share the power of the majority. For another, one of the things that can stop Republican majorities is the possibility of extremely poor candidates winning nominations in competitive seats. Control of the party is at stake, and that's currently a lot more of a contentious question on the Republican side.

Texas does not feature any of the dramatic contests in which a challenger endorsed by former President Donald Trump is trying to unseat an incumbent Republican. For that, we'll have to wait until May, when 13 states choose their nominees. In Idaho (May 19) and Georgia (May 24), Trump-endorsed candidates are taking on sitting Republican governors and, in Georgia, the Republican secretary of state who refused to help the president overturn the 2020 election results, Brad Raffensperger. We can be sure that such challenges will be interpreted as tests of Trump's influence within the party.

But Trump's clout will get an earlier test in some complicated primaries in Texas, where he has endorsed incumbents.

Gov. Greg Abbott is being challenged by two even more radical Republicans, former U.S. Rep. Allen West of Florida and former State Sen. Don Huffines, both of whom



Gov. Greg Abbott faces a stiff challenge from within the GOP when Texas holds its primaries on March 1. **JACOB FORD/ODESSA AMERICAN 2021**

are claiming that Abbott is insufficiently conservative. (A few other minor candidates are on the ballot as well, including one named Rick Perry. He's not the former governor, but his name could attract a few votes anyway). Abbott is favored to win the nomination, but if he falls below 50% on March 1 he'll be forced into a runoff, and that will surely be looked at as a sign of weakness even if he ultimately prevails.

Abbott has dominated the polling so far. Should he win while Trump-backed challengers win elsewhere, Trump would have a good argument that his endorsement was decisive.

On the other hand, if Abbott gets dragged into a runoff, it would suggest that winning Trump challengers elsewhere might be successful not because of Trump in particular, but because of the general direction of the party.

The attorney general contest in Texas is even more complicated. Scandal-ridden incumbent Ken Paxton is seeking a third four-year term despite having been under

indictment for most of his first two terms, and having much of his staff resign and charge him with corruption in an unrelated case during the current term.

All of this has earned him three significant challengers: Current land Commissioner George P. Bush, former Texas supreme court Justice Eva Guzman and House Freedom Caucus stalwart Louie Gohmert.

Trump endorsed Paxton, although Bush has broken from his family and supported the former president, and the Freedom Caucus members have been Trump's closest allies in the U.S. Congress. Paxton, for his part, was a leader in lawsuits asking the courts to overturn the 2020 election. It's unclear what will happen, but Paxton's renomination doesn't appear to be a sure thing.

The winners are likely to prevail in November and govern the nation's second-biggest state. Perceptions about the outcomes matter, too, because they will influence what happens elsewhere.

Only a fraction of Republican party actors are enthusiastic Trump supporters, and a smaller (and apparently shrinking) fraction are flat-out Trump opponents. Most Republican party actors, including politicians, will support him if they think they need to. And nothing is interpreted as showing a politician's clout — or lack thereof — as much as the fate of those he or she has endorsed.

If Abbott and Paxton dominate on March 1, Republicans in other states will be more inclined to scurry for Trump's favor before their own elections. If not? Fewer candidates will care about his support, and even those in the May primaries who already have it might be less likely to center their campaigns around it.

The tests of Trump's hold on Republicans are sometimes subtle and will take some time to sort themselves out. But it all starts soon, in Texas.

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Holmes verdict sends an oddly mixed message to investors

By Stephen Carter
Bloomberg Opinion

Every criminal trial is unique, and in general it is a mistake to read too much into a verdict. Still, the law professor in me can't help but notice the oddly mixed message delivered by the jury in the Elizabeth Holmes trial.

The disgraced founder of Theranos was acquitted on four counts of the indictment, including those related to the supposed misleading of patients. The jury reached no verdict on three counts, and she was found guilty on four counts — three involving her communications with investors, and one of conspiracy.

The odd part is that Holmes seems to have been convicted of fraud only against investors who asked few questions. The jury appears to have accepted the defense's argument that investors who sought and were denied more data should have known better.

This result might mirror existing law, but it creates incentives that are, to say the least, peculiar.

One might read the verdict as suggesting that the less curiosity an investor displays before buying, the greater the protection extended by law.

From the start of the trial, observers

noted that her best chance for acquittal would be a jury that understood the language entrepreneurs must speak if they want to attract investors. In this sense, the very culture of Silicon Valley was on trial — that is, the culture of puffing your invention to the Moon and back.

To be clear, entrepreneurs hyping their prospects beyond what they know for sure is a practice as old as entrepreneurship. Certainly it's part of the culture of Silicon Valley. Years ago, an investor told me that every tech pitch concludes with something like this: “I need your answer now, because a mutual friend is setting up a meeting with Peter Thiel tomorrow.”

The investor was speaking half in jest, but the tendency isn't any secret. A couple of decades ago, the humorist P.J. O'Rourke was inspired by California's search for alternative energy sources to pen this bit of acerbity: “With all the puffery from Silicon Valley dot.com start-ups, wind farms wouldn't be a problem.”

Courts have long understood these nuances of Silicon Valley culture. In 2015, a federal court in California dismissed most of a civil lawsuit alleging that defendant had falsely asserted that its technology was a “proven concept”; that the technology had been “vetted” by an unnamed biotech company; and that “publicly-traded phar-

maceutical companies” wanted to license it. The court ruled that the assertions were sufficiently vague that they were merely predictions or hopes, and did not become actionable simply because they never panned out.

Drawing the distinction can be a challenge. Courts in criminal fraud prosecutions like to quote the old and delightfully convoluted rule that a hope or prediction about the company's future becomes fraud when it involves “expression of an opinion not honestly entertained.” Such an inquiry is complex, because it requires the jury to determine what was in the defendant's head when she made a statement to an investor. That's why trial judges have traditionally been generous in permitting prosecutors to introduce circumstantial evidence of what the defendant actually believed.

The Holmes jury, after two weeks of working its way through this thicket, apparently decided not to punish her for supposedly false claims she made to those who pressed for more information. One wonders, then, exactly how cautious the jury believes investors should be. Is it better to ask questions or not?

No doubt Holmes will raise this paradox on appeal. She will remind the appellate courts of the adage that the law of fraud

does not “attribute to investors a childlike simplicity.” She will also surely raise once more the claim that every investor knows Silicon Valley is a veritable hotbed of hype.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing that Holmes is innocent. We should always, as a first approximation, trust that juries have done their work correctly. I won't be surprised if the verdict is upheld on appeal.

But even if Holmes has to spend some time behind bars, one suspects that things will work out for her. Fairly or not, she's captured a corner of the zeitgeist, and is likely to retain a degree of celebrity — or perhaps notoriety — for years to come. Fans attended the trial in replicas of her iconic “plain black suit.” Jennifer Lawrence has agreed to portray her in the movie.

And because this is Silicon Valley, it's appropriate to close with what might be the strangest coda to the Holmes story: Venture capitalist Marc Ostrofsky, an early Theranos investor whose stake was at one point valued at \$22 million, is auctioning a non-fungible token of his stock certificate, good for 500,000 preferred shares in Theranos.

As of this writing, there are no offers.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

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Quotations must be received by 11:30 A.M. on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022. Late bids will not be accepted.

ONLY VENDORS CURRENTLY REGISTERED UNDER THE STATE'S SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE PROGRAM ARE ELIGIBLE TO BID.

Bid package may be obtained from the Judicial Branch Purchasing Services web site below at:

www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/
1/7/22 7114522

Legal Notice
City of Hartford
Board of Preservation Appeals

The City of Hartford Board of Preservation Appeals will hold a Virtual Special meeting on Wednesday, January Monday, January 12, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. to consider the appropriateness of modifications to the following properties:

a. 108 Oak Street Appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission's decision to deny the renovation to front stairs, with a change in material from concrete to brownstone material. Owner & Appellant: Jon Schoenhorn. Meeting information and documents are available online at <https://www.meetinginfo.org/meetings/1768>
Documents are available for inspection by appointment at 260 Constitution Plaza, 1st Floor, Hartford, CT 06103.
1/7/22 7121372

Hartford CT Minority Opportunity

Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; Hartford CT Smith Tower Roof Replacement. Trades: carpentry, portable restrooms, masonry, crane. Material Supply: flatstock metal, lumber. Our bid submits on Thursday, January 13, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
1/7/22 7122862

BOLTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bolton Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm, to consider the following application(s):

Application #Z-21-79 - Britney Mahomes of Ambassador Pools, on behalf of homeowner Tonya LaPlante - 11 Enrico Rd - variance request to install above-ground pool with integrated deck and fence.
The application and associated information submitted to date may be reviewed by contacting the Land Use Department, Town Hall, during regular business hours. Additional information may be submitted up to, and during the public hearing. The public may listen to and/or attend this public hearing in person at Town Hall or virtually, and may obtain the virtual access information by contacting the Land Use Department, Town Hall, during regular business hours.
Mark Altermatt, Chairman, Bolton Zoning Board of Appeals
12/31/21 and 1/7/22 7118144

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE The undersigned hereby advertises the sale of lienor goods; Tuesday the 25th day of January, 2022 at 11:00 AM, on that day will conduct a sale with bidding to take place on lockers.com, FOR CASH ONLY, the contents of spaces at Storage Rentals of America, 1065 Voluntown Rd, Griswold, CT, 06351 Torres, Michael unit 1238 Misc. household items. Baker 3rd, Gerald unit 126 Misc. household items. Coyle, Stacy unit 131L Misc. household items. Storage Rentals of America, 1280 Hopmeadow, Simsbury, CT, 06070 Arzu, Daisy Janet unit 0331 Misc. household items. Arzu, Daisy Janet unit 0928 Misc. household items. Storage Rentals of America, 131L Misc. household items. Storage Rentals of America, 610 Pigeon Hill Rd, Bloomfield, CT, 06002 Sotis, Tim L unit B49 Misc. household items. Other Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.
1/7/22 & 1/14/22 7122344

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NOTICE OF SALE:

PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF MIDDLESEX AT MIDDLETOWN, DATED DECEMBER 14, 2021, DOCKET NUMBER MMKCV-21-6031792-S, SUN COMMUNITIES, INC. F/K/A JENSEN'S, INC. V CAROL BLANKENSHIP a public sale of a 1981 Burlington Mobile Manufactured Home, Identification Number M-2021-HA, owned by Carol Blankenship, shall be held at 17 Grove Terrace, a/k/a Grove Beach Community, Site 057, Westbrook, Connecticut, on January 18, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Any person, including a lien holder or the owner of the mobile manufactured home park, may bid at the sale. THE SALE WILL EXTINGUISH ALL PREVIOUS OWNERSHIP AND LIEN RIGHTS. PLAINTIFF: BY ANDREA DUNN, ITS ATTORNEY, 250 STATE STREET, #D2, NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473, 203-248-6440, JURIS # 419633
1/7/22, 1/8/22, 1/10/22 7122892

Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **PRAVINBHAI N PATEL, 10 NORTHWOODS LN, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457-6234**, have filed an application placarded **01/11/2022** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **PACKAGE STORE LIQUOR PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **398 SILAS DEANE HWY WETHERSFIELD CT 06092-2128**. The business will be owned by **SHREE MATE LLC**. Entertainment will consist of: Objections must be filed by: 02-22-2022.

01/11/2022
PRAVINBHAI N PATEL
1/7, 1/14/2022 7122859

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon
Gertrude M. Gosselin
Ruth A. Griswold

Berlin
Ronald E. Griggs

Bloomfield
Elizabeth Stott

Bristol
Linda J. Hayward

Canton
Gertrude M. Gosselin

East Hampton
Lucy L. Quinn

Enfield
Philip J. Barrett

Farmington
Rosa Calafiore

Glastonbury
Robert Perron

Hartford
David O. Gilbert
Manuel Marques De Jesus
Francis Morline

Manchester
Lucy L. Quinn

Middletown
Nicholas J. Fazzino

New Britain
Rosa Calafiore
Ronald E. Griggs
Linda J. Hayward
Nancy A. Pagliaruli

Newington
David O. Gilbert
Nancy A. Pagliaruli

Other Towns in CT
William R. Hamma
Henry V. Novinski
Elizabeth Stott

Plainville
Jennie Asensio

South Windsor
Manuel Marques De Jesus

Vernon
Gayle M. Deneen

West Hartford
Dr. Thomas J. Halligan, Jr.

Wethersfield
Phyllis Murphy

Windsor
Gayle M. Deneen

Windsor Locks
Philip J. Barrett

OUT OF STATE
Stephen J. Britt
Stuarts Draft, VA

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Barrett, Philip J.



Philip J. Barrett, 63, of Enfield, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Victoria L. (Garrett) Barrett. Born on June 7, 1958 in New Britain, CT to the late Walter and Barbara (Thibault) Barrett. Phil had resided in Enfield for many years. He had retired from the State of Connecticut Department of Corrections after many years of service. In addition to his wife, Victoria, he is also survived by his five children; Philip "PJ" Barrett (Sherry) of Enfield, Caitlin Barrett (Christopher Langan) of Windsor Locks, Anthony Marturano of Enfield, Jessica Kreutzberg (Justin) of Windsor Locks and Megan Skinner of New York, and his six beloved grandchildren. Along with his siblings; Tracey Eisenman of Somers, Michael Barrett (Donna) of Newington, Thomas Barrett of CT and Christopher Barrett of CT, as well as many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents he was predeceased by a brother-in-law Gary Eisenman. Relatives and friends may gather with his family on Monday, January 10, 2022 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Browne Memorial Chapels followed by a Memorial Service. Interment will be at the convenience of the family. The family has requested memorial donations be made to the ASPCA, 359 Spring Hill Rd. Monroe, CT 06468. To leave an online condolence message visit: www.brownememorialchapels.com.

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Britt, Stephen J.



Stephen J. Britt, 86, of Stuarts Draft, VA passed away on December 31, 2021. For obituary and details on services go to: <https://www.fhnfuneral-home.com/m/obituaries/Stephen-Britt-2/Memories>

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Deneen, Gayle Marie (Cacioppe)



Gayle Marie (Cacioppe) Deneen, a Vernon resident, passed away unexpectedly on January 4th 2022. Gayle, who was born on December 29th, 1948, in Newark, NJ, was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She is survived by her loving husband of 22 years, Rich Deneen, her two children, Rob Marchese and Amy Stevenson, her four grandchildren, Anneliese and Collin Stevenson, Robbie and Riley Marchese, her three brothers, Raymond Cacioppe and his wife Carol, Richard and Ronald Cacioppe, her step-children, Patrick Deneen and his wife Inge, Matthew Deneen, Brendan Deneen and his wife Kim, Amy Wiles and her husband Sean, and eleven step-grandchildren. After graduating from college, Gayle moved to Connecticut where she raised a family and eventually owned and operated Actionwear Ltd, a successful chain of women's clothing stores. Besides her flair for fashion, Gayle was a skilled tennis player, a talented decorator, a master gardener, a peerless chef of any and every Italian dish, and an avid dog lover. Subsequent to her clothing business, Gayle worked in advertising for several shopping centers, including Tri-City Plaza and Wethersfield Shopping Center; she also worked for home inspection companies, U.S. Inspect and Tiger Home Inspection. Besides her family, Gayle had a passion for animals and was never without one of her beloved dogs, Pippa and Mitzi. Other interests include her many creative endeavors such as home décor, sewing, travel, and the thriving gift-basket business Gayle had with her husband, Rich. Gayle's brilliant business sense also saw her successfully buy and sell multiple properties through the years. The genuine and unconditional support and love Gayle showed to her family is immeasurable, and her legacy will forever be in the hearts of all of those whose lives she touched. She will be greatly missed. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Crossroads Community Cathedral, 1492 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT. Calling hours will be an hour prior from 10 until the time of service. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Carmon Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations in Gayle's memory can be made to Abandoned Angels Cocker Spaniel Rescue (www.nyabandonedangels.com) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>. For online expressions of sympathy please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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OBITUARIES

Gilbert, David O.

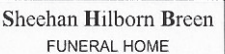


David was born in Hartford, CT (late of West Suffield), the son of the late Raymond R. and Clara B. Gilbert. He was the second of nine children, a wonderful brother to all of his brothers and sisters.

David attended St. Augustine Elementary School and was a 1968 graduate of Bulkeley High School in Hartford. For most of his adult life he worked at Hamilton Standard in Windsor Locks as a Quality Assurance Inspector. Dave loved sports, especially golf. He was an avid Yankee and New York Giants fan. Most of all, he was a big part of his family's life. Dearly loved, we will never forget and will always miss him.

David leaves behind his longtime loving companion Kathy Fahey; three brothers, Gene and wife Carolyn, Paul and wife Karen and Michael Gilbert; four sisters, Marian and her husband Michael Lattarala, Barbara Gilbert, Cynthia Reaves, Carol and her husband Andrew Dykas. He was predeceased by a fifth sister Joan Emshoff and his parents. We would like to also recognize Britney and Ryder of the Fahey Family, who affectionately called him "Puppa". The family wishes to thank the medical caregivers at Suffield House and Kimberly Hall.

Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com



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Griggs, Ronald E.



Ronald E. Griggs, 92, of Berlin, husband of the late Lucille (Barrett) Griggs, passed away Wednesday (January 5, 2022) at Apple Rehab of Cromwell. Born in Hartford, he lived in Berlin since 1937. A graduate of Berlin High School, Class of 1947, he attended Trinity College. A US Army Korean War veteran, Ron was employed at Southern New England Telephone (SNET) for 40 years and retired as a Plant Analyst in Cable Test in 1995. He attended Berlin Congregational Church and was a former Board Member of the Berlin Visiting Nurses Association.

Surviving is his sister, Judith (Griggs) Nimro of Berlin; and many nieces and nephews. Besides his wife Lucille, he was predeceased by a brother, Roy Griggs and two sisters, Elizabeth Spring and Carol Thomas.

Funeral services will be held Monday (January 10, 2022) 1 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Calling hours are Monday afternoon from 12 NOON until the time of the service. Burial with military honors will follow in Rose Hill memorial Park, Rocky Hill. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The American Cancer Society, PO Box 280285, East Hartford, CT 06128. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneral-home.com



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Griswold, Ruth A.Sisson



Ruth Sisson Griswold, 91, life-long resident of Avon and beloved wife of the late Donald E. Griswold, passed away on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Born and raised in Avon, Ruth was one of five cherished daughters of the late Ralph and Gertrude (Plude) Sisson. She was incredibly proud of her Avon community and sought out many opportunities to take part in serving the residents of the town she loved so dearly. As Donald and Ruth built their home at 81 Sylvan Street where they lived for 61 years, she served as a baker and cook for Avon Public Schools, retiring after a 30-year career. As Donald became active in many community organizations, Ruth was right by his side and pursued her own endeavors in many of the same groups. She was an active part of the Avon Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, the Avon Lions Club, and the Prince Thomas of Savoy Ladies Auxiliary.

Ruth was a true family woman and always gave her time and attention to her growing family. A proud wife, mother, and grandmother, she will always be remembered for her gentle and kindhearted spirit. Ruth never wavered in her ability to be a source of love and comfort for her friends and family, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Anita G. Lowry and son-in-law, Steven Lowry of Leland, NC; a son, Robert Donald Griswold of West Hartland; her sister, Arline Casson of Avon; two grandsons, Christopher Lowry of Windsor and James Lowry of Suffolk, VA; and a great-grandson, Jade Meakin of Windsor. In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her daughter, Holly J. Norton, and her three sisters, Norma, Martha and Grace.

Ruth's family will receive friends from 2-4PM on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon. A prayer service will be held at 3:30PM at the funeral home. A graveside burial ceremony will take place at 2:30PM on Monday, January 10, 2022, at Evergreen Cemetery, 76 Climax Road, Avon. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ruth's memory may be made to the Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main St., Avon, CT 06001. To share a memory of Ruth or condolence message with her family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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Gosselin, Gertrude Morrow



Gertrude Morrow Gosselin, 86, of Collinsville, CT passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 4, 2022. She was born October 2, 1935, in Caribou, Maine, the daughter of the late Joseph and Mabel Morrow.

She married Paul Henry Gosselin in 1957 and together they raised their five children, Brian Gosselin, Paula Cyr, Brenda Mills, Peter Gosselin, and John Gosselin. Gertrude and her husband moved to Collinsville in 1962. Gertrude was industrious inside and outside of the home, whether it was clerical support in the insurance industry, painting, wallpapering, or performing yard work to keep her flower gardens and property in tip top shape. Additionally, she enjoyed bowling, music and dancing, and traveling.

In her later years, Gertrude was an active member of the Canton Senior Center, enjoyed watching programs on TV Land (such as The Golden Girls and Andy Griffith Show), and passing time at home in her favorite chair doing Word Searches and drinking coffee.

She is survived by her five children; Brian Gosselin of Avon, CT, Paula Cyr and her husband Martin of Canton, CT, Peter Gosselin, Brenda Mills and her husband Andrew of Melbourne, FL, and John Gosselin of Simsbury, CT, her six grandchildren; Crystal O'Connor, Derek Cyr, Andrew Forster, Jordan Gosselin, Michael Gosselin, Helina Gosselin, and Hella Gosselin, and several great grandchildren. Gertrude also leaves behind one sister, Jeanette Cooper-Rosario, as well as several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Gertrude was predeceased by her husband Paul, her granddaughter Julianne Forster, and sisters Eva Hardison, Ida LaPointe and Lucy Martin.

The immediate family held a private burial ceremony at Village Cemetery in Collinsville, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements were handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc., www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Hamma, William R.



William R. Hamma (Bill) passed away peacefully at his home in Durham on December 17, 2021. He was 90. Born on April 17, 1931 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, he was the son of the late William M. Hamma and Katherine G. (Harrison) Hamma. A Korean War Veteran, Bill loved his country and actively served in both the Air Force and Army from 1950 to 1957. Following his time in the military, Bill continued his service to the United States Government by working at the Veteran's Hospital in West Haven as a carpenter/locksmith for more than 30 years. In 1957, he met and married the love of his life, Mabel (Mickie) Gastler, before settling in Durham in 1960. An avid reader and aficionado of U.S. military history, it was not uncommon for Bill to amaze his family and friends by being able to effortlessly recall significant details of military operations, tactics and technologies employed during the Civil War, WWI, WWII and the Korean War. He was also quite adept with his hands and loved to tinker with all things mechanical. It was not unusual to find him in his basement on the weekend restoring antique clocks and furniture, a passion that carried over into a successful antique business with his wife, Mickie. Bill also loved the outdoors and could often be found both planting Christmas trees in the spring and cutting trees for customers in December at the tree lot next door to his house. He truly loved meeting and chatting with all of the different people who would come for a tree and many became multi-year returning customers. His children feel they would be remiss if they didn't mention the week-ends spent outside during their childhood cutting wood for the winter as well...something they thought was akin to punishment but that Mickie and Bill thought qualified as quality family time. His children thought the annual family vacations on Long Lake in Maine were much better. A loving and devoted family man, Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mabel (Mickie) Hamma, his daughter Cathryn (Vincent) Melvin, his son William, Jr. (Elisa) Hamma and his son James (Maria) Hamma, as well as 7 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Caffrey, and was predeceased by his daughter Carolyn (Phillip) Caffrey in 2018. His family will miss his gentle and fun-loving nature, his amazing smile and the dry sense of humor that typically came out during family card games. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 10 a.m. graveside at Mica Hill Cemetery in Durham. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Middlesex Health Hospice Program, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Hayward, Linda Joyce



Linda Joyce Hayward, 74, of Bristol, passed away on Monday, January 3, 2022 after a 3 year battle with cancer. She was born in New Britain on December 13, 1947, the daughter of the late Joseph and Helen Camp. She graduated from Plainville High School in 1966. Linda worked for Caldors, Allstate and AA Plus Bonding, where she was still

working as surety bond underwriting assistant. She loved to travel with her husband through the United States and Abroad. Her favorite site was Crater Lake in Oregon and her favorite trip was to the Canadian Rockies. She enjoyed cooking and quilting with her granddaughter Vivian. She liked to play bridge, attend the smooth jazz concerts at Southern Connecticut State University, work in her beautiful gardens, go out for a good meal and spend time with her family and friends. She is survived by her beloved husband Bradley Hayward of 54 years; her two sons and their spouses, Paul and Molly Hayward of West Hartford and Dean and Abby Hayward of Rocky Hill; her granddaughter Vivian Rose Hayward; her sister Marcia Camp and her husband Greg Horn; her sisters-in-law Betty Camp, Marlene Calderone and her husband Jim Calderone and Sandra Hayward and many, very close nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was predeceased by her brother Richard Camp, sister-in-law Carolyn Fliss and her husband Robert Fliss and brother-in-law Dudley Hayward. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, January 12 starting 11:00 for relatives at Fairview Cemetery, 120 Smalley St., New Britain. A memorial service will be held at a future date when covid is no longer a concern. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the American Cancer Society in CT, 111 Founders Plaza, East Hartford, CT 06108 or Glennmoon Scholarship, C/O Association of Retired Teachers of CT, 68 Loomis Street, Manchester, CT 06042-1911 To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, please visit Linda's tribute page at www.O'Brien-FuneralHome.com



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OBITUARIES

Fazzino, Nicholas Joseph



Nicholas (Nick) Joseph Fazzino passed away peacefully on January 1, 2022 at the age of 66. He was born on September 26, 1955 in Middletown, Connecticut, where he was a lifelong resident. He is predeceased by his mother and father, Palma (DiMauro) and Giuseppe Fazzino of Melilli, Sicily; his sister, Maria; and his brother, Salvatore.

Nick is survived by his beloved wife and soulmate of 29 years, Josephine (Annino); his sons, Joseph and Marcus; his daughter, Jennifer and her husband, Luke Massirio, and his newborn grandson, Jake Nicholas. He was a deeply devoted husband and father, and his priority was to instill strong morals and values in his children, as he always stressed the importance of the unbreakable family bond.

Nick was not only a loving husband and father, but he was also a loyal friend. He maintained lifelong friendships with a tight group of buddies, who were like brothers to him.



Many will remember him as DJ Sick Nick playing in nightclubs throughout Connecticut and New York. Nick was the life of the party and could always be seen having a blast on the dance floor. Nick's passion for music was equaled by his love of sports and cars. He was an avid Yankee fan and an automotive graduate from Vinal Tech, class of 1973. He also pursued his dream of becoming an entrepreneur and has managed his own successful vehicle appraisal business since 1993.

Nick was dedicated to his hometown and thrived on serving the community. He served as Vice Chairman for Planning & Zoning for the city of Middletown and was also a member of the Italian Society of Middletown, IACO, the Elks Club, as well as the Polish Falcons. Nick also was an active and involved parishioner of St. Sebastian Church.

As hard as he worked whether for his business or for the community, he still made it a point to enjoy life. He loved vacationing to his favorite places like Aruba, Sicily, and Florida and entertaining an ever-revolving door of family and friends at his home. Nick valued his strong Sicilian heritage and its culture of strong faith, close family and friends, and delicious food. He found immense joy and peace working in his garden and making wine.

In each of his endeavors, pursuits, and passions, Nick carried a special light with him wherever he went and never met a stranger without offering a warm embrace. He had a way of cheering up the room and finding humor in every situation. He was quick to practice the act of kindness and compassion. He was as caring as he was generous, never one to hold a grudge or judge others. His values were steadfast. His mission was to give freely and to foster love and forgiveness. He was devoted to God and profoundly committed to his family, friends, and community. Nick consistently preached the importance of never giving up on your dreams or your loved ones and to live life to the fullest every single day.

Nick also leaves behind his mother-in-law, Filomena Annino, a sister-in-law, brothers-in-law, several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He will be sorely missed by everyone whose life he touched.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 AM on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at St. Sebastian Church, 155 Washington St. Middletown, CT. Calling hours will be held before Mass from 9:30 AM to 11 AM at the Church. Burial to follow at St. Sebastian Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial donations be made in Nicholas Fazzino's name to his favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Please follow the link below to contribute: <http://giftfunds.stjude.org/NicholasFazzino>

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Halligan Jr., Dr. Thomas Joseph



Dr. Thomas Joseph Halligan Jr, 84, long time resident of West Hartford CT, passed away peacefully on Dec 31, 2021. He was born to Thomas "Tim" Halligan and Alice (Hanley) Halligan in Concord, NH on April 6, 1937.

He is predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Julie Kelly Halligan. He is survived by his beloved and devoted sister Linda Skaggs, his five children and 11 grandchildren; Kelly and James Gerbo and their children Nicholas, Alexander, and Matthew; Kathleen and Michael Hanahoe and their children Caitlin, Erin and Ryan; Timothy and Karen Halligan and his daughter Sarah and their son Timothy Jr.; Thomas and Pamela Halligan and their child Kathryn; and Colleen and Jed McCarthy and their children Hallie and Justin.

Tom grew up in Concord, NH and attended St John's High School where he was captain of the basketball team and class President. He attended the University of Notre Dame where he studied pre med and graduated in 1959. Notre Dame held a special place in his heart and he returned there often to attend football games and visit the Grotto to light candles and offer prayers. He graduated from the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine in 1963. He spent 2 years in service to his country with the Air Force stationed at Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, NY.



During his childhood Tom spent many happy summers at Camp Fatima in Gilmanton Iron Works, NH, first as a camper and later as a counselor. For many years he was the camp doctor during Exceptional Citizen's Week at Camp Fatima. He was introduced to his future bride on a blind date. Julie was a counselor at the sister camp- Camp Bernadette. All of their children and some grandchildren spent many enjoyable summers at both of these camps. Camp Fatima was Tom's happy place. He enjoyed nothing more than being out on Lake Suncook.

One of Tom's passions was helping others. He was a General Surgeon at St. Francis Hospital for 40 years. He was beloved by his patients, the nurses and the many residents he trained. He was frequently in the hospital spending time with his patients at nights or during holidays.

The back porch at 104 was where he spent much time relaxing, reading his daily stack of newspapers, watching Red Sox games and being available to listen and give advice to the many friends and family that visited.

The family would like to offer their deepest gratitude to "LaLa", his devoted caregiver. She cared for Tom with love and respect during his last year.

Calling hours will be at Molloy Funeral Home at 906 Farmington Ave. in West Hartford on Sunday January 9 from 1- 4 pm. The Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 am at St. Thomas The Apostle Roman Catholic Church at 872 Farmington Ave. West Hartford on Monday. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. There will be a Celebration of Life at Camp Fatima in the summer of 2022. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider making a donation to either Camp Fatima (<https://fatimadonation.campbraingiving.com>) or Malta House of Care (<https://maltahouseofcare.org>). Online remembrances and livestream link may be found at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Molloy Funeral Home
906 FARMINGTON AVENUE
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

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Pagliaruli, Nancy Ann



Nancy Ann Pagliaruli was the youngest of ten siblings in the Naples family of New Britain, CT, and the last to pass on. She leaves behind John, her devoted husband of fifty years, as well as her most prized possessions: her grandchildren Allison, Samantha, Chelsea, Rocco, and one more on the way that she was so very excited to meet in July. She'll be missed by her children, John Jr, Amy (Marchetti), Thomas, (Maria DeConti out of love) and their respective spouses, Sandy, Richard, Stacy (and Paul). Above all else, Nancy was an avid grandmother. She thoroughly enjoyed staying connected with her abundance of great nieces and nephews, and spoke fondly of all of them. She was a Disney fanatic and, most importantly, a lover of all things Dance and Broadway. Early in her life she was a Head Majorette for the New Britain High School Golden Hurricanes and even earned a spot as a Rockette (though she never got to perform on stage). She was also an exceptional cook and baker who loved preparing treats for the family, friends and neighbors to enjoy. Nancy loved the beach, specifically the annual family and friends' vacation to Cape Cod, trips to Bermuda and Disney with her grandchildren, daughter and Karen. She and her husband also enjoyed many trips together with their beloved friends Jim and Susan Nelson. The past two years in quarantine were very tough on Nancy, and the family thanks all who kept her busy, assisted, excited and looking forward to being with everyone again. She will be missed by many, the beach will be lonely without her, and our tummies will never be the same in the absence of her tasty treats.



A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Monday, January 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. DIRECTLY at St. Mary Church, 626 Willard Ave., Newington. Family and friends may call on Sunday, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes, at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. Nancy will be lovingly laid to rest in the mausoleum in St. Mary Cemetery, 1141 Stanley St., New Britain. Masks will be required at all services. To share a memory with Nancy's family, please go to www.duksa.net.



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Marques de Jesus, Manuel



Manuel Marques de Jesus 98 of Hartford, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Dec 31, 2021. He was born on March 1, 1923 in Sazes da Beira, Portugal. Manuel and his wife moved to Hartford in 1967 and was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Church. He worked at Taylor & Fenn for 20 years before retiring in 1988. He enjoyed making wine, sharing stories, and singing at family gatherings. He will be truly missed by those that were blessed to have known him. He leaves behind his loving wife Maria Couceicao de Jesus, and daughter Laurinda Marques Brito, grandchildren Michael, Anthony and Christine Brito, and great grandchildren Anthony, Joseph, and Victoria Brito. Memorial Services will be held in Sazes de Beira, Portugal.

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Novinski, Henry V.



Henry V. Novinski, 93, of Moodus, beloved husband of Kathryn "Kay" (Williams) Novinski, died Monday, January 3, 2022 at Chestelm Health and Rehab surrounded by family. Born August 9, 1928 to the late Edward and Theofila (Dykas) Novinski of Moodus, Henry was a veteran who served with the US Navy during WWII and later in the US Coast Guard. After serving



his country, he went on to work for the Local Union as a carpenter for more than 50 years. He was a lifetime parishioner of St. Bridget of Kildare Church. Henry will be most remembered for his kind and gentle nature, his thoughtfulness and generosity, his loyalty and love for family, as well as his love and respect for animals and nature. He is survived by the love of his life and his wife of nearly 70 years, Kay; son, Martin Novinski of Florida; daughters, Susan Sinnott and her husband David of East Haddam, Janet Klinck and her husband Philip of Deep River; sister, Celia Delehanty; seven grandchildren, Gregory Novinski (Shayna), Karen Winzens (Adam), Jeff Sinnott (Heather), Jenna Turner (James), Kate Munday (Keith), Stephen Klinck (Kim), Melanie Klinck; six great-grandchildren, Olivia and Charlotte Winzens, Owen and Noah Sinnott, Betsy and Vera Kate Munday; as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his four brothers, Edward, Albin, Benedict and Louis Novinski; and three sisters, Eugena Nowakowski, Hedwig Stula and Lottie Spada. The family wishes to send a special thank you to the staff at Chestelm for their care and compassion for Henry and the family. His Funeral Liturgy will be on Monday (Jan. 10th) at 10:30 a.m. at St. Bridget of Kildare Church in Moodus. Burial with military honors will follow at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Calling hours will be held on Sunday (Jan. 9th) from 2 to 4 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St. in Middletown. In lieu of a post-service reception, an event in his honor will be held this summer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Novinski Brothers American Legion Scholarship Fund at The American Legion Baron-Smith-Golec Post 156, P.O. Box 100, Moodus, CT 06469 or to a charity of your choice. To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

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Stott, Elizabeth



Elizabeth ("Betsy") Hubbard Stott, 102, a resident of the Duncaster Retirement Community in Bloomfield since 2001, passed away on January 3, 2022 in the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center with her children at her side. Born in Pelham Manor, NY November 13, 1919, Mrs. Stott was the daughter of the late Allen S. Hubbard, a

foundling partner of the New York law firm of Hughes, Richards, Hubbard, and Ewing and Harriet Richardson Hubbard, both originally of Auburn, New York. She graduated from the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury and Vassar College before entering war service in the Army's "Special Branch" in the Pentagon, translating Japanese messages for Military Intelligence. In 1945 she married Gordon D. Stott, a New York investment broker who was working in an allied Intelligence office in the Pentagon. After the war, they settled in Mount Kisco, New York where they raised their three children. With a Columbia University Master's Degree in Education, Betsy taught history and English at Cisqua School in Mount Kisco and at later at the Rippowam-Cisqua School in Bedford. The couple would later move to Somers, NY, and in 1992 to the Gables in Farmington.

After retiring from teaching in 1976 and with a further Masters degree in Museum Education from NYU, she spent over a decade volunteering at the Katonah Art Gallery (now the Katonah Museum of Art) as a docent and exhibit designer, notably on Southeast Asian Shadow Puppets and on Finnish Art.

Mrs. Stott retained a lifelong devotion to art: she started painting at the age of fourteen and continued into her 102nd year. Among her mentors were Guy Pene du Bois, Wayman Adams, Caesar Borgia and Bob Norieka. Her media ranged from charcoal, pastels, graphite pencil, and oils, although she spent much of the latter part of her life specializing in watercolors. (In her final years, she even started drawing on her iPad.) She had several retrospective exhibits of her watercolors, most recently in 2017.

As a former history teacher, with an ever-inquisitive mind, she researched the local history of Norfolk, CT. The result was Doolittle Woods, 200 Years of Change, a history of European settlement around Norfolk's Doolittle Lake. As a summer resident there at the camp built for her father in the 1920s, Mrs. Stott gave numerous talks and led tours about the history of the area.

She is survived by her son Peter Stott of Boston, daughters Janet Stott of Los Angeles and Sarah Stott of Bristol, VT, and sons-in-law Arthur Pembleton and Howard Jennings. She was predeceased by her husband Gordon Stott, brothers Allen S. Hubbard Jr, David R. Hubbard and sister Charlotte Fries.

Betsy will be remembered for her inquisitive mind, her determination to persevere on whatever held her interest and her positive outlook. A memorial service will be held at the Colebrook, CT Congregational Church later in the Spring. Donations in her memory can be made to the Norfolk Historical Society, 13 Village Green, Norfolk, CT 06058.

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Quinn, Lucy L



Lucy L. Quinn 81, of Easthampton, formerly of Manchester, CT died December 24, 2021, in her home. She was born on December 8, 1940 in Manchester, CT, the daughter of Walter and Eleanor (Lydall) Quinn. Her family owned and operated Quinn's Pharmacy. She graduated from Windham Technical School in 1965 with

her LPN degree. In 1989 she graduated from Eastern Connecticut State College with a B.S. in social work.

Lucy worked for many years as an LPN at Manchester Memorial Hospital and remained active in her profession until her death. Lucy was a gifted caregiver and spent the majority of her career working in psychiatric nursing and mental health. Most recently she worked with elders in their homes to enable them to live independently. She made friends everywhere she went in her life.

Lucy loved her animals. She had many pets over the years, but her springer spaniels were the most beloved. She enjoyed skiing, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. She was an amazing gardener; she would prefer to be outside with her dogs taking care of her yard and gardens.

She was pre-deceased by her brother Edwin L. Quinn. Lucy is survived by her niece Sarah Quinn and her spouse Becky Lockwood of Florence MA, and nephews Edwin L. Quinn Jr. and his spouse Jolene Quinn of Poway CA., John S. Quinn of Exeter NH, and Hugh J. Quinn and his spouse Lori Quinn of Chester VT.

She is also survived by her great nieces Ella Quinn, Kailee Quinn, Elizabeth Sandberg and Erin Wyke as well as great nephews Michael Quinn, Matthew Quinn, Christopher Quinn, Justin Sandberg, Chad Sandberg and Ryan Sandberg.

A service of remembrance will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Dakin Humane Society at PO Box 6307, Springfield, MA 01101.

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OBITUARIES

Murphy, Phyllis



Phyllis Murphy, 89 (formerly of Wethersfield, CT) died peacefully at her home in Canton MA on January 4, 2022. She was the beloved wife of the late Robert J. Murphy and daughter of Amelia (Coppy) and Harry Mellon. She was predeceased by her three siblings. Phyllis was a graduate of Drexel University and Central Connecticut State University. Her career began as a public school teacher in Madison and Bloomfield Connecticut, then as a teacher and principal of Corpus Christi School (Wethersfield, CT) and later as an administrator for the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Catholic Schools. Phyllis is survived by her daughters, Marguerite Murphy and her husband Samuel Solomon and Katherine Buhler and her husband Philipp Buhler and five grandchildren. Phyllis's happiest moments were when she was with her family. She was a member of the Wethersfield Art League, Wethersfield Historical Society, volunteered for State of Connecticut Services for the Blind, a guide at the Connecticut State Capitol, ESL tutor and a past member of the Wethersfield Library Board and numerous other organizations. Our family is grateful for the wonderful care provided by her caregivers Donna Nicholas and Fedia Lafortune as well as Laerte Giraud and the entire staff of Cornerstone at Canton. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to Old Colony Hospice (321 Manley Street, West Bridgewater, MA 02379), to Corpus Christi School Annual Fund (581 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield CT 06109), or to a charity of your choice. Private service will be held at Farley Funeral Home 355 Park Street Stoughton MA, private interment at Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill CT. *Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries*

Morline, Francis

Francis (Frank) Morline, 81, of Port Charlotte, FL, formerly of Vernon, CT, passed away on Monday, December 20, 2021, after a valiant seventeen year battle with Parkinson's Disease. Fran was born on January 4, 1940, in Hartford, CT. He grew up in Hartford and graduated from Bulkeley High School in 1958. Upon graduation, he worked full time for the CT Air National Guard, before earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Central Connecticut State College in 1966 and then a Masters Degree from the University of CT. He taught in the South Windsor, CT school system, first science at Timothy Edwards Middle School, then Physics and chemistry at South Windsor High School until his retirement in 1995. Fran and Nancy immediately retired to Florida where he was able to enjoy several years fishing, boating, golfing, motorcycle trips, and lots of travel before his health started to fail. He was an avid sports fan, especially of the UCONN Huskies and New York Giants. Fran was predeceased by his parents, Rocco and Josephine Morline, and his sister Judith Brodeur. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years Nancy Ellison Morline, his brother Paul Morline, as well as his nephews and nieces Eric Wetherell, Wendy Willard, Denise Cugno, Mary Ann Powers, John Brodeur, and David Brodeur. Fran and Nancy adopted several cocker spaniels over the years, and he also leaves his beloved rescue cocker spaniels Nicky and Sammy. Per Fran's wishes, there are no services planned, and his ashes will be buried in CT at a later date. The family would like to thank the nurses and doctor at Tidewell Englewood Hospice House in Port Charlotte, FL for their wonderful care. *Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries*

Perron, Robert



Robert F. Perron, Sr., 87 of Glastonbury, passed away on January 3, 2022, at Hartford Hospital. Born November 3, 1934, to the late Peter and Elsie (Godreau) Perron. Robert was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, he loved golf, the ocean, Winters at Surfside Beach, and summers at the Cottage in New Hampshire he and Suzanne had for 52 years. A Character and jokester in his own right, making people smile was a special gift. Robert served his country honorably in the 10th Infantry Division, stationed in Germany for much of his time. He was also a member of the American Legion #59 in New Hampshire. Robert is predeceased by his son Scott Perron, and daughter-in-law Sharon Perron, he leaves his loving wife of 67 years, Suzanne and their four surviving children Robert (Mari-Beth) Perron, Jeffrey Perron, Robin Croxford and Cherie (Brian) Kelleher. Robert also leaves his 11 grandchildren; Leon (Erika) Smith, Candice (Nick) Chaput, Jessica (Paul) LaChance, Jocelyn (Danny) Cates, Lindsey Smith (Mark Platkowski) and Vanessa (Justin) Myers, Emma Perron (Dominic Channon), Luke Perron, Benjamin, Courtney and Alexander Perron along with nine Great Grandchildren; Damian, MacKenzie, Kylie, Paulie, Jordan, Jack, Juliette, Ella, Callie and one on the way. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2022, from 3:00-5:00 pm at the Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, CT. A Funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 1:00 pm, with burial with full Military Honors at the East Cemetery, 240 East Center St., Manchester. To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com *Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries*



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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
DIANA J (SERGI) BARBER



1/7/1951-12/31/2016

We love you and still miss you so much. It has been 5 years and there is still not a day we do not think you of you and smile.

In Loving Memory Of
MURIEL (CLOUTIER) SOUCY



11/6/1932 – 01/07/2021

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Your loving son.

In Loving Memory Of
STAN TRAYNOR



5/23/39 - 1/7/2002



Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear" – Love, Ann, Jen, Deb and Dave

In Loving Memory Of
MAJOR MELVIN WILSON, JR



It has been 7 years since you left your final battlefield and walked the path of life to the meadow of the great light. We miss you everyday, but the memories will always remain our bridge to you. Mel, You were a great son, father, brother and brave soldier. We will always love you. Mom, Dad, Robin, David and Jerrilyn



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























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 ORTHODOX RUSSIAN CROSS	 STAR OF DAVID	 ROTARY
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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Boosters mandated for health workers

Long-term care, hospital staff must get shots by mid-February in effort to curb omicron spread

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

In response to rising COVID-19 cases in long-term care facilities, Gov. Ned Lamont announced Thursday that Connecticut will mandate booster shots for workers in nursing homes and assisted living facilities by Feb. 11.

Connecticut hospitals will also mandate booster shots for all health care workers, through a rolling requirement based on booster eligibility.

“Nursing homes were particu-

larly hard hit a year and a half ago, suffering real fatalities, and we can’t let that happen again, and it’s not,” Lamont said during an afternoon press conference.

Though nursing homes are not seeing the staggering COVID-19 death rates that characterized the early months of pandemic, COVID-19 cases have risen swiftly in recent weeks. Staff cases of COVID-19 in nursing homes have doubled in the past week, from 700 to 1,400, said Dr. Deidre Gifford, the commissioner of the state’s social services department.

Cases among long-term care residents have also increased to about 600 in recent data, up from around 200 the prior week.

Currently, 31% of nursing home workers have been boosted, in addition to 82% of eligible residents, according to state officials. Booster rates for health care workers vary between hospitals, said Patrick Charmel, the president and CEO of Griffin Hospital, but generally range from 35% to 50% and are as high as 60% to 70% in some facilities.

Lamont emphasized that increasing booster rates among nursing home workers would

Turn to Boosters, Page 2



Kelly Day, a dietary aid at Cherry Brook Health Care Center, gets a COVID -19 vaccination Dec. 11, 2020, in Canton. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Virus cases on the rise for kids

Hospitals report ‘very marked, significant uptick’ across state

By Jenna Carlesso, Dave Altimari and Katy Golvala
CT Mirror

Pediatric coronavirus hospitalizations in Connecticut have risen dramatically in recent weeks, and health officials are reporting crowded emergency rooms in children’s hospitals.

An average of 21 children per day were hospitalized across the state last week, doubling the average number of pediatric coronavirus patients over the course of a single week, according to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

As of Jan. 3, the state had 27 children with confirmed COVID-19 in the hospital and an additional six hospitalized who were suspected to have the virus.

By contrast, there was an average of about two children hospitalized per day during Thanksgiving week and an average of about nine per day during Christmas week.

The increase mirrors a national trend. An average of 672 children were admitted to hospitals every day with COVID-19 during the week that ended Sunday, the highest such number of the pandemic, CNN reported.

Since Dec. 1, Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital has admitted 49 children with COVID-19. On Tuesday, the hospital had 18 pediatric cases, with five in the intensive care unit. None were on ventilators, though hospital officials said some children had previously needed the devices.

“In the spring of 2020, when the pandemic started, there was speculation that children had natural immunity because there were very, very low cases among children. On some days, we’d have two or three cases,”

Turn to Hospitals, Page 2



On the eve of 2022’s first significant snowstorm, CTDOT workers Brian Ruot, left, and Mike D’Amico prepare a truck in the Wethersfield CTDOT yard. Heavy snow is forecast to fall Friday with 3 to 7 inches of accumulation by early afternoon. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Short-staffed DOT urges patience ahead of storm

Winter’s first significant snowfall — up to 7 inches statewide — expected Friday

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Short of plow drivers in the face of a storm that will pile up to an inch of snow per hour on roads and highways early Friday, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is asking the public for patience.

“With nearly 200 vacancies

and over 250 absences as a result of COVID-positive test results or those awaiting test results due to close contacts, we have a large hole in our 1,600-person highway operations team,” DOT spokeswoman Kafi Rouse said Thursday.

Snow is expected to start early Friday and will be heavy at times, with accumulations around an inch per hour for a time.

That rate of snowfall would be hard to keep up with even under ideal staffing, Rouse said.

“We are asking people to be patient,” she said, “as we work through the rush hour tomorrow. We would encourage people to drive slow, stay off the roads during rush hour if they can, and give our crews plenty of space and don’t crowd the plow.”

The forecast calls for snow to end between 8 a.m. and noon on Friday, with accumulations of 3 to 7 inches statewide, said Gary Lessor, chief meteorologist with the Connecticut Weather Center at Western Connecticut State University. Western Connecticut will see less accumulation as the

Turn to Storm, Page 2

“We would encourage people to drive slow, stay off the roads during rush hour if they can, and give our crews plenty of space and don’t crowd the plow.”

— Kafi Rouse, Connecticut Department of Transportation spokeswoman

Get a proper cuppa at new Take Tea in Avon

‘This is not a restaurant. It’s an ... experience’

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

At Take Tea, a British-style tea room in Avon, tea enthusiasts can get a proper cuppa, as well as scones, shortbread, crustless sandwiches and other teatime goodies.

The tea room was founded by Nann Thomson, and opening Take Tea earlier this month is Thomson’s third career. Years ago, she was an attorney specializing in family law, representing kids. For years after that, she taught kids, most recently at New Britain High School. She retired from education in the early days of the pandemic.

“In 2020 I was teaching on my living-room couch. I was very concerned about the health consequences of going back to the classroom in September. So I tendered

my resignation,” Thomson, 69, says.

But she had long had a dream of opening a tea room.

“In the 1970s I lived in Ireland. I had lots of cream tea,” Thomson says. “I also lived in England, studying law at University of Exeter for a term. They have afternoon tea. It has a more theater element to it [than Irish teas] and more formal courses. It’s meant to be enjoyed for a long session at the table.”

“I wanted mine to be a hybrid of the two, not hoity-toity. I want to bring the feeling of what people experienced when they had afternoon tea, to be evocative of that,” she says.

Thomson spent a year buying vintage china,

Turn to Tea, Page 2



Two-hour sessions at Take Tea include bottomless pots of tea and three-tiered trays of tea snacks. Guests can bring their own Champagne. SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT

Complaints filed over mask, test distribution

Two disability rights groups allege discrimination

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Two Connecticut disability rights groups have filed two federal complaints against Gov. Ned Lamont and the state Department of Public Health, alleging discrimination in the distribution of COVID-19 tests and masks.

In the complaints, Disability Rights Connecticut and the Connecticut Legal Rights Project cite the Lamont administration’s decision to recommend but not require that municipalities prioritize people with disabilities in passing out the supplies this week. They argue that disabled people, including some who are unable to leave their homes, were therefore unable to obtain tests and masks as readily as other residents.

The groups on Thursday filed

separate complaints to the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Civil Rights.

In a statement Thursday, Disability Rights Connecticut Executive Director Deborah Dorfman said disabled residents “must be immediately provided with equal access to N95 masks and test kits and other COVID protections and an opportunity to receive reasonable modifications.”

“Each day that goes by without these protections needlessly exacerbates the risk that they will become seriously ill from COVID-19 and serves only to perpetuate disability discrimination,” Dorfman said.

A Lamont spokesperson

Turn to Disability, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Shots fired as neighbor confronts thieves

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Thieves fired gunshots after a Manchester man confronted them stealing a neighbor’s catalytic converter early Thursday, police said.

No one was hurt. The incident was reported at about 3:45 a.m. at 51 Hamlin St. Hearing what he believed to be a power saw, a resident looked outside and saw a dark gray vehicle, unknown to him, parked in his driveway, police spokesman Lt. Ryan Shea said.

Three males were standing near his neighbor’s vehicle, and the resi-

dent went outside and shouted at them, Shea said. Another male was on the ground sawing off the converter, which contains valuable metals that thieves typically exchange for cash.

One of the males drew a handgun and pointed it at the resident, Shea said. A second male also displayed a firearm, and the resident quickly retreated inside. After closing the door, multiple gun shots were heard, and the group sped away in the dark gray vehicle.

Police found shell casings in the driveway of 51 Hamlin St. and confirmed a catalytic converter was stolen, Shea said. Police could find

no damage to buildings or vehicles from the shots fired, Shea said, but the driver’s side window of the vehicle the converter was taken from was smashed. Windows in other vehicles in the area of Pearl and Holl streets also were broken, and police believe the incidents are related.

Anyone with information is urged to call police at 860-645-5500 or 860-645-5575. Also, Shea said, police encourage citizens to call 911 and report crimes in progress rather than confronting criminals.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

HARTFORD
Truck rolls over man checking malfunction

A man was killed in Hartford Wednesday when his pickup truck rolled over him as he was trying to see why it would not go into reverse, police said.

The man had pulled over near 192 Ledyard St. at about 1:30 p.m. and was trying to turn around, but the vehicle would not reverse, police said a witness told officers. The victim got out, went behind the truck and had started looking under the vehicle for a source of the malfunction when the vehicle rolled backward, police said.

The victim, whose name has

not been released, was knocked to the ground and the front tires of the truck rolled over him, crushing his chest. He was taken to Hartford Hospital, where he was pronounced dead just before 2 p.m., police said.

The accident is under investigation, police said.

— Jesse Leavenworth

Storm

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fast-moving storm blows east.

The DOT came under fire for its response to icy road conditions Wednesday. Roy Ochiogrosso, a top adviser to former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, complained in a tweet that he got stuck on a slick road for 90 minutes and that this was the “worst non-response to a

weather event I’ve ever seen.”

But Garrett Eucalitto, a deputy commissioner with the DOT, said conditions were not right for effective treatment. The DOT couldn’t put down a liquid brine solution because the pavement temperature was too cold in the last two days, Eucalitto said. It would have frozen, vehicles traveling over it would have crushed it and it would have dispersed, he said. And the rain would have washed it away.”

Disability

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declined to comment Thursday.

Connecticut last week received more than 400,000 at-home COVID-19 tests and a large shipment of N95 masks, which were allotted to municipalities to be distributed to the public. Some towns gave special priority to high-risk residents, while others passed them out on a first-come-first-served basis.

The disability rights groups originally brought their concerns to Lamont in a letter last weekend.

The governor replied Wednesday in a letter of his own, noting that he had directed municipalities to prioritize those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

Sheldon Toubman, a litigation attorney for Disability Rights Connecticut, says that wasn’t enough.

“It’s simple: Just issue a directive to all the municipalities saying they must [prioritize disabled residents,” Taubman said. “And he won’t do it. His letter makes it clear that he’s unwilling to do that.”

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Hospitals

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said Cynthia N. Sparer, executive director of Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital. “Now we have three, four, five times the number of children needing hospital care. Since Thanksgiving, the numbers have gone through the roof.”

Some of the children are very young — under 5 years old and therefore ineligible to be vaccinated. The overwhelming number of kids hospitalized this month are eligible to be vaccinated but were not, Sparer said. Only five who have been hospitalized were fully vaccinated.

Sparer said she is seeing children come to hospital in two ways — “incidental findings,” when children are brought in for other procedures and test positive for COVID-19, and those who are sick with coronavirus symptoms, such as high fevers, respiratory distress and stomach issues.

None of the recent cases has been tied to the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) that surfaced in children during the first wave of COVID. Overall, Yale has admitted 262 children since the pandemic began, and 63 have been diagnosed with MIS-C. There have been no deaths.

“We have children who come to the emergency room with symptoms and are so sick they end up in ICU,” Sparer said. “Most of the children are discharged after two or three days, but we do worry about children ending up with long COVID.”

At Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, 17 children were hospitalized with COVID-19 on Tuesday, three of them in the intensive care unit. None were on ventilators.

Most of those hospitalized were not vaccinated against coronavirus, hospital officials said.

Between Sunday at midnight and Monday at midnight, more than 240 children turned up at the emergency department. Of those,

65 tested positive for coronavirus, though not all were admitted.

“We absolutely have a very marked, significant uptick in COVID-19 in the pediatric age group,” said Dr. Juan Salazar, physician in chief at Connecticut Children’s. “At our peak previously, we had 11, 12 kids [hospitalized]. One day we might have had 13. But this is by far the largest number. And not just for today but sustained at those numbers.

“The other thing we had not seen is the number of positive kids coming into the emergency department, to the urgent care facilities. It’s truly a pandemic proportion of children that we hadn’t seen before.”

During the latest wave of COVID-19, physicians are seeing broader spread of the disease, infecting newborns to 18-year-olds.

“At the beginning of this, we were not seeing that,” Salazar said. “Certainly, we were not seeing it in newborns.”

Symptoms in children are similar to those of the flu — sore throat, runny nose, headache, fever and cough. Some symptoms are similar to croup, an infection of the upper airway.

“The croup-like illness should not be entirely dismissed as croup and not COVID,” Salazar said. “COVID can present as croup now and then. That’s a twist in this virus, which we hadn’t seen before.”

Some of the families visiting the emergency department have shown up seeking coronavirus testing. Salazar urged parents not to use the emergency room for testing.

“The ED really should be reserved for those kids who need services,” he said. “That will help us, and it will help expedite those kids who have other things that are not COVID that actually require emergency care.”

As pediatric cases increase, some providers are seeing higher demand for the coronavirus

vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds. When the shot was first rolled out for that age group, physicians said some parents were not eager to vaccinate because they viewed the disease as mild or unlikely to infect children.

“Parents really should not be complacent, because although I’m telling them that most of the cases are mild, we don’t know all the potential long term effects of the virus,” Salazar said. “We don’t know the potential complications of the virus, even if mild, including the inflammatory syndrome. I think they have a responsibility with their children to try to keep them safe and avoid COVID in the first place. The vaccines do work and work beautifully.”

The state’s vaccination rate for 5- to 11-year-olds has risen during the past few weeks, to 34% as of Dec. 30, up from 30%.

The vaccination rate for children 12 to 15 years old has remained in the 75% range throughout December.



Sara McHugh, left, and Nann Thomson are the team behind Avon’s Take Tea.

Tea

from Page 1

décor and furnishings from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. She took courses and worked with a mentor on her business model. She found a vacancy in an 1880 building at 19 East Main St. in the Old Avon Village complex. She hung a Union Jack by one entrance and an Irish flag by another.

She recruited a former star student, Sara McHugh, to run the shop with her. It turns out McHugh has tea in her blood.

“My great-grandmother owned a tea cart 100 years ago,” McHugh says. “She worked outside the air base in Cranwell [in Lincolnshire, England] in 1922.”

The women, aided by Thomson’s son Jonathan, opened Jan. 1.

“This is not a restaurant. It’s an opportunity to have an experience that transports you into a different

place,” Thomson says.

Tea is served Thursday to Sunday in two two-hour sessions, at noon and 2:30 p.m. Guests who pre-register online at taketeainct.com — \$30 apiece, 12 and older only — are served a bottomless pot of tea and a three-tiered tea stand of treats.

On the bottom tier are canapés or sandwiches: curry chicken, egg salad, cucumber, jam pennies, shrimp mousse. On the middle tier are scones or tea bread with jam and cream. On the top tier are desserts such as shortbread, a “mini cuppa-cake” of Guinness and chocolate, and posset, a creamy pudding. The menu changes periodically.

Thomson makes “mock clotted cream,” because British clotted cream “doesn’t travel well and is very expensive,” she says. She got the recipe from her favorite Connecticut tea room, the now-closed Mrs. Bridge’s Tea Room in Woodstock.



At Take Tea, tea is served Thursday to Sunday in two, two-hour sessions, when guests are served a bottomless pot of tea and a three-tiered tea stand of treats. **SUSAN DUNNE PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

“I’m proud to serve it. The taste and texture is authentic,” she says.

All the tea is loose-leaf Harney & Sons. Flavors include English breakfast, organic Assam, organic Earl Grey, hot cinnamon spice, Tower of London blend, heirloom Bartlett pear, Irish breakfast, chocolate, ginger’s oolong and decaf tea, which is organic rooibos. Take Tea also offers Lyons tea from Ireland, PG Tips from England in tea bags, as well as coffee.

Thomson has applied for a liquor license. When she gets it

she will offer champagne with the other treats. Until then, guests can BYOB. The nearby Uncork & Unwind package store, also in Old Avon Village, sells small chilled bottles of Champagne.

Thomson is as cautious with her tea room as she is with her health. She requires guests to be vaccinated and boosted, although she relies on the honor system, and she is allowing only 13 guests per seating, half of her capacity, until the pandemic is over. Everyone must wear a mask when arriving and

when not eating and drinking.

But she has plans for when the pandemic wanes.

“I want to have tea classes and children’s tea times, maybe on Saturday mornings. I want to have themed teas” like “Downton Abbey,” “Alice in Wonderland” and “Bridgerton.”

“That’s all in the future. Right now we’re perfecting our hospitality.”

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Boosters

from Page 1

“open up capacity in our hospitals, make it easier for us to transfer people from the hospitals to the nursing homes and allow us to get to more regular and normal hours in our nursing homes.”

The booster mandate for workers in long-term care facilities was issued through an executive order late Thursday and covers staff and contractors who “have any kind of significant resident contact,”

Gifford said. The mandate includes workers in nursing homes, assisted living and managed residential communities, residential care homes, intermediate care facilities and chronic disease hospitals. State employees who work in hospital settings are also covered by the mandate, officials said.

Employees will not have the option to take a COVID-19 test as an alternative to receiving a booster, Gifford noted.

The state is considering a similar policy for state employees and teachers, though is “cognizant of

the fact that the governor’s emergency powers will be expiring in the middle of February,” and an expanded mandate would likely require support from the legislature, said Lamont’s chief operating officer, Josh Geballe.

While 99% of hospital caregivers in the state are vaccinated, new evidence shows that vaccines wane over time, Charmel said, and health care workers in Connecticut were among the first to be vaccinated in the state.

“Given what we’re facing, we felt it was time. And we’ve got to protect

our workers,” Dr. Tom Balcezak, the chief clinical officer of Yale New Haven Health System, said of the booster mandate.

At Yale New Haven Health, about 40% of workers received boosters on-site, though the total number of employees who have been boosted is likely much higher, he said.

Charmel said he expects all hospital workers who are eligible for the booster will have received it by March. Workers who are not yet eligible for the booster will have additional time to receive their shot.

Hospital workers who are not

yet eligible for the booster include those who received their second vaccine dose early last fall, those who have been recently infected with COVID-19, and those who received monoclonal antibodies within the last few months, Balcezak said.

“Boosters work,” he said. “Even just empirically in our own institution, there are very, very few, almost no patients that are in our ICUs that have had boosters.”

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CONNECTICUT

Businesses turned ‘mask cops’

Amid surge, retailers, restaurants have become face covering enforcers — and they’re tired of it

By Erica E. Phillips
CT Mirror

It was after a deadly COVID-19 outbreak at a nursing home in North Canaan this past fall that local hardware store owner Bob Riva said he and his staff started wearing masks again at work.

But he was hesitant to require that his customers do the same.

One of Riva’s clerks wanted to put up a sign. “I said, ‘Sure, you can, but we have to be very cautious. Say please.’”

The clientele at 130-year-old C.A. Lindell Hardware & Lumber reflect the demographics of the community — many are elderly — and Riva said he’s cognizant of their health. At the height of the pandemic over a year ago, the store had a mask mandate in place, but some younger customers pushed back. Riva recalls people swearing at him and threatening to call the police.

This time around, he said, “I didn’t feel as though I wanted to go through the arguments with customers ... I’m so past that. It’s

worn me out, maybe.”

As COVID-19 cases surge across the state amid the spread of the omicron variant and the waning of vaccine effectiveness, enforcing safety measures like mask-wearing and social distancing is falling to private businesses. There are no statewide mandates, and imposing local ones has been challenging — most cities and towns have relied largely on good will and individual courtesy. As a result, public-facing retail shops and restaurants have borne the brunt of public pushback.

“It puts businesses in the position of having to be the mask cops,” said Betsy Gara, executive director of the Connecticut Council Of Small Towns. “By and large, towns are finding that most people are complying with the requirements of local businesses to wear masks. Unfortunately, there’s a small segment of the population that just refuses to do so, and that just makes it much more difficult.”

It didn’t help that the onset of the latest variant coincided with

the 2021 holiday shopping season, which was significantly busier than 2020. Weekly foot traffic in U.S. retail stores in December was up between 14% and 20% compared to the same weeks the prior year, according to research firm Sensormatic Solutions. Family gatherings and air travel, which were also more common this holiday season, have likely aided the virus’ spread.

The range of rules and enforcement, from one business to the next, varies almost as widely as the range of regulations across Connecticut towns and cities. Some jurisdictions have reinstated public health measures after doing away with them months ago. Others have stayed the course. Even in places that reestablished mask mandates, there are few to no consequences for failing to comply (New Haven is one exception).

As a result, mask wearing is unpredictable from town to town, inconsistent even from one storefront to the next, among customers and employees alike.

“That’s one thing we’ve heard from front-facing businesses, that it would be nice to have consistency,” said Chris DiPentima,

president of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. The best way to do that, he said, is for companies to establish their own policies and stick to them. “Businesses have just taken it into their own hands,” he said. “Most prefer there would not be [mandates]. Most prefer to control it within their own business.”

“My feeling personally is that if the state set the regulations, then we can enforce them,” said C.A. Lindell Hardware & Lumber store manager Peter Broggi. “But when it’s the customer’s choice whether to wear or not, as a business, you have to respect your customer.”

But the latest spike in COVID positivity — nearly one in four tests as of Tuesday — is raising anxiety levels, DiPentima said. “I think it is escalating a bit, as far as the sensitivity of it, because the customers themselves are getting frustrated or tired of mask-wearing.”

For his part, Riva said he might feel more comfortable standing up to customers if he knew there were official policies to back him up.

“I always felt like we were out here on an island by ourselves,” he said.

NY drug supplier sentenced to prison

Federal authorities say he provided cocaine to New London trafficker

By Helen Bennett
Hartford Courant

A New York City man was sentenced to more than six years in prison this week for supplying cocaine to a Connecticut drug trafficker, according to federal authorities.

Geoffrey Gordon, 51, of Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced to 6.25 years in prison, to be followed by four years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Victor A. Bolden, according to federal authorities. The sentencing took place by teleconference.

The case arose from an investigation by federal, state and local authorities, federal officials said in a statement. The probe, by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Connecticut Statewide Narcotics Taskforce East, Connecticut Department of Correction and New London, Waterford, city of Groton and Stonington Police Departments, was into the distribution of narcotics and illegal possession of firearms in southeastern Connecticut, federal officials said in the statement. “The investigation included court-authorized wiretaps and controlled purchases and seizures of heroin, cocaine and firearms.”

Federal authorities said New London resident Anthony Whyte, also known as “Jak Mac,” obtained heroin, fentanyl and cocaine from various sources in Connecticut, New York and elsewhere, and distributed the narcotics to others, who then sold the drugs to customers and other street-level drug dealers.” Gordon had supplied at least five kilograms of cocaine to Whyte for redistribution in the state, federal officials said in the statement, citing court documents and statements made in court.

Whyte and several other co-conspirators were arrested Feb. 21, 2019, federal officials said in the statement. When authorities searched Whyte’s New London apartment, they allegedly found more than 1.5 kilograms of cocaine; about 185 grams of heroin; about 100 grams of fentanyl and fentanyl pills; 10 firearms, several of which were stolen; and approximately \$25,000 in cash, according to the statement. Investigators seized additional narcotics, another firearm, and nearly \$200,000 in cash from other members of the conspiracy, federal officials said.

Gordon was arrested on Aug. 8, 2019, and through a search warrant, authorities found “almost a kilogram of heroin and fentanyl, a 9mm handgun and \$29,241 in cash.”

Whyte was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute, various narcotics; one count of conspiracy to launder monetary instruments, three counts of possession with intent to distribute, and distribution of, various narcotics; and one count possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime on Sept. 28, 2021, according to federal authorities.

Twenty-three other defendants charged as a result of this investigation have been convicted, according to the statement.



Fuoco Coal Fired Apizza in Cheshire was destroyed in a fire Dec. 28 that started in the kitchen. CHESHIRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Cheshire pizzeria destroyed by fire

Pair of fundraisers set up to help Fuoco Pizza after ‘devastating’ loss

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Fuoco Pizza in Cheshire was destroyed in a fire on Dec. 28, and a friend of the family that owns the eatery has started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to help pay its employees until business can resume.

At the same time, a second GoFundMe was started by the restaurant owner’s cousin. Both fundraisers can be found by searching on “Help the Fuoco Pizza Family” at gofundme.com.

No one was injured in the fire that consumed Fuoco Coal Fired

Apizza at 461 W. Main St. Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department’s Facebook page reported that the fire started in the kitchen at 11:06 a.m. and took about an hour and a half to extinguish.

One GoFundMe was started on Dec. 31 by Kyle Tournas. By the morning of Jan. 6, \$6,530 of the \$100,000 goal had been reached.

Tournas, who owns Hot Tub Discounts in Wallingford, got to know Fuoco owner George Constanti when their daughters became best friends. Both families live in Prospect.

Constanti could not be reached for comment.

Tournas said he expects insurance to cover the repairs of the restaurant, but the GoFundMe is to pay employees until business can resume.

“He wants to keep them employed. He is dedicated to them,” Tournas said.

Still, Tournas added, he didn’t believe Constanti would start a GoFundMe on his own.

“If I was in their shoes I’d be looking for help but George is a very humble person and wouldn’t ask for help. I spoke to his wife Andrea. I said, ‘I’m doing this anyway even if he gets mad at me,’” Tournas said.

“I am a small business owner myself. I feel for him. I saw a friend in need,” he said. “I’m also a volunteer firefighter. I have seen the tragedy and frustration that comes from a fire.”

The second GoFundMe was started on the same day by Constanti’s cousin, Stella Ioannou-Zipoli. By the morning of Jan. 6, \$320 was raised of its \$20,000

goal.

In her plea for donations, Ioannou-Zipoli described how the blaze began:

“George fired up the oven like a normal day, he noticed something was not right, he saw flames coming from the top of the oven and before he can even comprehend what was happening the ceiling started to melt right before his eyes. The fear in him at that very second is unimaginable, he ran to the back to alert his son and the rest of the crew to get out. It is a miracle and a blessing that everyone was able to retreat to safety and no one was hurt. Within minutes the ceiling collapsed and the devastation began.”

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More than 600 arts groups get \$16M infusion to help heal from pandemic

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

Connecticut Humanities has awarded \$16 million to 624 non-profit arts and cultural organizations around the state.

The CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants were approved by the Connecticut General Assembly and Gov. Ned Lamont last year to help arts and cultural non-profits overcome setbacks caused by the COVID pandemic. The grants are funded by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

CT Humanities was allocated \$30.7 million to distribute over a two-year period: up to \$20 million in fiscal year 2022 and up to \$10 million in fiscal year 2023.

Some of the recipients have been mentioning their own grants in recent days on social media posts. The full list was released Wednesday.

In a statement announcing all 624 grants, CT Humanities board

member Frank Mitchell said:

“In addition to anchoring communities and contributing to the economic engine of our state, the arts and humanities help us make sense of and address today’s biggest challenges in ways that help us learn from one another, be resilient, and co-create paths to move forward.”

According to CT Humanities, the 624 recipients represent 137 Connecticut cities and towns as well as two tribal nations and cover 90 percent of the state’s alliance districts, which have been determined as underserved communities with low-performing schools.

“We have an opportunity to more fully understand and quantify the profound impact arts, humanities, and cultural nonprofits have on the individuals, local economies, and issues in Connecticut,” CT Humanities Executive Director Jason Mancini said in a statement.

The grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$500,000. The highest amount went to three of the 624 organizations, who each received \$500,000:

the media company Connecticut Public, Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium. Another aquarium, the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, received \$355,200.

The cities of Hartford and New Haven received the most grants, with 48 each.

Among the dozens of Hartford organizations receiving the funds were Hartford Stage (\$276,600), Hartford Symphony Orchestra (\$265,500) and the Connecticut Historical Society (\$196,200). Among those receiving the smallest (\$5,000) grants were HartBeat Ensemble, the Capitol Region Education Council Foundation, Charter Oak Temple Restoration and the Connecticut State Library. Fourteen of the Hartford recipients had never received any funding from CT Humanities before these grants, among them the Connecticut LGBT Film Festival (\$8,300), Hartford Gay Men’s Chorus (\$8,400), Hartford Artisans Weaving Center (\$20,200) and The Bushnell (\$5,000).

The Bushnell’s grant may seem curiously low, but one of the



The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk received one of the largest CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants at \$355,200. COURANT FILE

considerations for CT Humanities funding was the size of an organization’s budget and what other funding it might have received.


The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam received \$390,000. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation received \$200,500 while the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation got \$5,300.

The full list of 624 recipients is online at cthumanities.org.

The CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants is one of several new funding sources created in the last two years to support arts

and culture organizations whose survival was threatened by having to shut down, restrict programming or otherwise seriously alter their usual operations during the pandemic. Some of the other grants, such as the Shuttered Venue Operator Grants (aka Save Our Stages) and the COVID Relief Fund for Museums Grants, were funded through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnett@courant.com.



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MIDDLETOWN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
JANUARY 12, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Request for a re-subdivision to create 3 lots from a 1.26 ac property located at 1408 Randolph Road. Applicant/agent Cocomo II, LLC. S2021-5

Thomas Pattavina, Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission
12/31/21, 1/7/22 7116072

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Cecylia Barnat (21-00993)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 3, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Krzysztof Barnat, 295 Carriage Drive, Berlin, CT 06037

Legal Notice

Payment for Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes on the 2020 Grand List for automobiles registered between October 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021 become due and payable in full to the South Fire District Tax Collector on January 1, 2022 and if not paid in full by February 1, 2022 shall immediately become delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 1 ½% per month of delinquency or \$2.00 minimum interest.

Taxes can be mailed to the South Fire District Tax Office located at 445 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457. Office of the South Fire District Tax Collector.

12/23/21, 1/7/22, 1/25/22

LEGAL NOTICE
For January 2022 Collection

Office of the Tax Collector
323 Route 81, Killingworth, CT 06419
Phone 860-663-1765 ext. 508 /
Fax 860-663-4050

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Killingworth, that the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2020, is due and payable on January 1, 2022. Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax bills are also due on January 1, 2022, in one installment.

If not paid on or before February 1, 2022, the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at a rate of 18% per annum (1 ½ % for each month or fraction thereof) dating back to the original due date of the bill. Two months of interest will be due on February 2, 2022. A minimum interest charge of \$2.00 is applicable to each delinquent tax bill.

You may pay by mail. Checks should be made payable to: Tax Collector. Mail postmarked on or before February 1, 2022 will be considered an on time payment. (US Postal Service postmark only) If you would like a receipt returned to you, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. You may also leave payments in the dropbox located next to the main door at Town Hall or pay online at www.townofkillingworth.com.

As a matter of law, the taxpayer is liable to the town for the tax installment(s) as they become due and payable. Liability is not created by, nor dependent upon, receipt of a tax bill. Therefore, failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the requirement to pay the statutorily required interest when a payment is late.

Michele B. Nuhn, CCMC, CCMO
Tax Collector
12/28, 01/07, 01/28/21 7080822

CHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Chester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold public hearings with virtual participation available on the Town website on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut to hear the following:

Application for Amendment to Chester Zoning Regulations, Section 40J, "Height Limitation." Applicant: Brooke Girty.

Details available on Town website or from zoningofficial@chesterct.org. At this Hearing, interested parties may appear and be heard; written correspondence will be received and made a part of the record. Copy of the above are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk for public review.

Bettie Perreault, Secretary
Dated at Chester, Connecticut this 15th day of December, 2021.
12/31/21, 1/7/22 7113988

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
OLD SAYBROOK ZONING COMMISSION

At the Old Saybrook Zoning Commission meeting of January 3, 2022 the following decisions were rendered:

A. **"633 Middlesex Turnpike, LLC" Petition to amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations** Sections 32.0 and 32.7.2 to allow one building with a max. gross floor area of 35,000 s.f. in the B-2 zone when located on a five-acre parcel.
Applicant: 633 Middlesex Turnpike, LLC Agent: Attorney Edward M. Cassella
APPROVED/EFFECTIVE 2/1/22

B. **"Max's Place, Big Y Foods and Lyman Development Corp." Petition to Amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations** to amend Section 62.4.6.D.6. to allow a less stringent parking ratio for shopping centers from 1 space per 175 s.f. of gross floor area to 1 space per 225 s.f. of g.f.a. and to allow Applicants of buildings in excess of 10K s.f. to allocate the space devoted to storage to 1 space per 1200 s.f.
Applicants: Big Y Foods, Inc., Max's Place, LLC, and Lyman Development Corp.
Agent: Atty. David M. Royston
APPROVED AS AMENDED/EFFECTIVE 2/1/2022

C. **"Max's Place & Big Y Foods" Petition to Amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations** to amend Sections 34.2.1 and 51.1 Special Standards to permit retail gasoline sales as an accessory use in the B-4 Zoning District
Applicants: Big Y Foods, Inc. & Max's Place, LLC. Agent: Atty. David M. Royston
DENIED

D. **"Navarro" Application for Special Exception Permit** for construction of a 5,385 s.f. residential home with attached garage at 46 Cromwell Place, Assessor's Map 32, Lot 21-1, Residence AA-2 District, CAM Zone, CT River Gateway Conservation Zone.
Applicant/Owner: Nanette Navarro Agent: Joe Wren, PE., L.S.
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Dated at Old Saybrook, Connecticut this 7th day of January 2022
Robert Friedmann, Chairman
1/7/2022 7120784




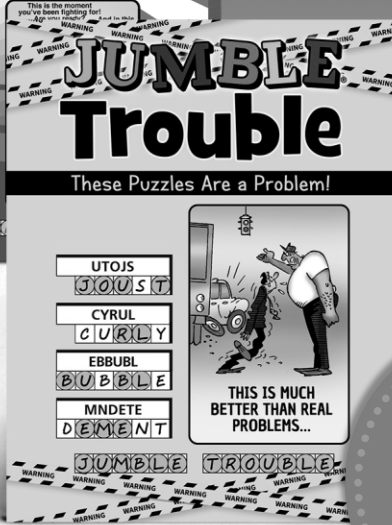
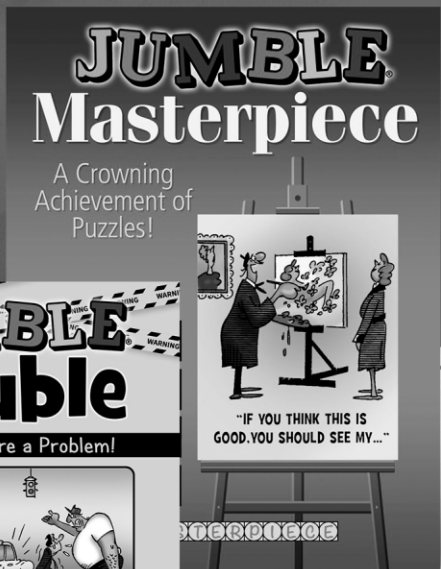
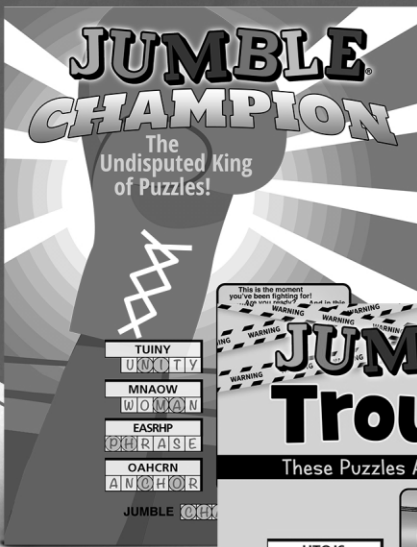
Car Reviews

SATURDAYS IN Motoring

Lee Renee Matterazzo, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Middletown, CT
12/22/21 1/7/22 1/27/22 7109369



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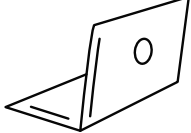
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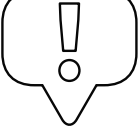
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— Tribune Publishing Company —

A bumper crop of TV titles in store for 2022

Los Angeles Times staff

As the backlog brought on by the start of the COVID-19 pandemic clears — even if the pandemic itself does not — 2022 promises a bumper crop of prominent TV titles. “The Walking Dead” comes to an end, “Game of Thrones” becomes a franchise and “The Lord of the Rings” moves to the small screen. The original “Law & Order” is back for season 21, and Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee’s tempestuous relationship is back in the spotlight with “Pam & Tommy.” And that’s just for starters. Find more new and returning TV series, selected by Los Angeles Times staff, to mark on your calendars for 2022.

‘Abbott Elementary’ (ABC, Tuesdays): Using a mockumentary format, creator Quinta Brunson shows that school really is not just a building, it’s the people inside. She plays an upbeat new teacher who quickly learns that there are other things to deal with besides the students, including colleagues who’ve seen it all, administrators who haven’t seen enough and inner workings that spill out.

‘This Is Us’ (NBC, Tuesdays): In its farewell season, NBC’s heart-tugging drama reaches the end of its time-jumping narrative, which has been working toward the death of elderly Rebecca Pearson (played by Mandy Moore), the matriarch of the close-knit family at its center.

‘The Righteous Gemstones’ (HBO, Jan. 9): The second season of this impolite dysfunctional family comedy, set around



LaKeith Stanfield, from left, Donald Glover and Brian Tyree Henry in the series “Atlanta.” FX

a Southern megachurch, arrives two years after the first. Trouble is perhaps what these characters — church head John Goodman and his immature grown children, including series co-creator Danny McBride — attract or deserve.

‘Naomi’ (The CW, Jan. 11): In this comic-book adaptation, bubbly popular teen (Kaci Walfall) is finding that her world is not what it seems — and neither is she. The young actors carry big weight without the added expectations of, say, another “Superman” series.

‘How I Met Your Father’ (Hulu, Jan. 18): Like many early and mid-aughts shows about a very white friend group figuring out

life in New York City, the long-running CBS sitcom “How I Met Your Mother” hasn’t exactly aged well. And this gender-flipped re-imagining debuts after the original’s still debated finale, as well as a shelved attempt in 2014 that starred Greta Gerwig. This new version from “This Is Us” alumni Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger is narrated by Kim Cattrall and features a (relatively more diverse) cast led by Hilary Duff.

‘The Gilded Age’ (HBO, Jan. 24): Set in 1882 in New York City, Julian Fellowes’ “The Gilded Age” stars Christine Baranski and Cynthia Nixon as sisters from an old-money Manhattan family. Louisa Jacobson plays the niece

from rural Pennsylvania who comes to live with them when her father — their estranged brother — dies, while Carrie Coon is the ambitious wife of the stupendously wealthy railroad tycoon next door.

‘Inventing Anna’ (Netflix, Feb. 11): Based on Jessica Pressler’s New York magazine story “How Anna Delvey Tricked New York’s Party People,” Shonda Rhimes’ “Inventing Anna” stars Emmy-winning actor Julia Garner (“Ozark”) as wannabe socialite Anna Delvey, a young Russian woman who grifted societally elite New Yorkers before she was arrested in 2017. Anna Chlumsky, Anna Deavere Smith, Anthony Edwards and Arian Moayed, as well as several

Shondaland favorites, round out the cast.

‘Bel-Air’ (Peacock, Feb. 13): This “Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” re-imagining is no ordinary Hollywood reboot. It only exists because filmmaker Morgan Cooper self-funded a trailer that presented a grittier version of the ’90s sitcom’s premise: a young teenager gets transplanted from the streets of West Philadelphia to the wealthy world of Los Angeles’ Westside. That short film went viral, caught the attention of Will Smith and scored a two-season deal with Peacock.

‘From’ (Epix, Feb. 20): A family on vacation passes through a town where they ask a polite resident for directions. They follow his directions and drive away, but wind up back in the town again. And again. It becomes clear that they are trapped, and something wicked in this town lives.

‘The Dropout’ (Hulu, March 3): The rise and fall of Elizabeth Holmes, the world’s youngest self-made female billionaire, gets the scripted treatment in “The Dropout.” Oscar nominee Amanda Seyfried plays the Stanford dropout who promised to revolutionize the health care industry with her blood-testing company and instead became the face of one of the greatest cautionary tales in Silicon Valley history.

‘Atlanta’ (FX, March 24): Donald Glover’s audacious slice of life returns this spring after a four-year hiatus, the sort of gap only a series as artfully unorthodox as this one could pull off. Trailers for the Europe-set third season — which finds Earn (Glover), Darius

(Lakeith Stanfield), Paper Boi (Brian Tyree Henry) and Van (Zazie Beetz) on tour in London, Paris and Amsterdam — combine absurdist humor about race and racism with unsettling intimations of an irredeemably warped social fabric.

‘Benjamin Franklin’ (PBS, April 4): Filmmaker Ken Burns presents a two-part, four-hour tour of the life of that most interesting, industrious, entrepreneurial and frisky of the Founding Fathers. The story of a scientist, statesman, journeyman, businessman, ambassador, author, man on the \$100 bill, “Benjamin Franklin” also promises to address the moral contradictions of a man of the future living in his present, our past.

‘Better Call Saul’ (AMC, TBA): In this final season, lots of questions will be answered, including the fate of Jimmy McGill’s (Bob Odenkirk) girlfriend Kim Wexler (Rhea Seehorn). Another open question is how creator Peter Gould and Vince Gilligan will connect the end of prequel “Better Call Saul” to original series “Breaking Bad.”

‘Julia’ (HBO Max, TBA): Based on the life of culinary goddess Julia Child, this HBO Max drama is set around her groundbreaking 1963 television series, “The French Chef.” The casting choices for this eight-episode series are downright delicious: Sarah Lancashire (“Happy Valley,” “Last Tango in Halifax”) is Child, David Hyde Pierce (“Frasier”) is husband Paul, and other notables include Bebe Neuwirth (“Frasier”), Isabella Rossellini (“Crime of the Century”) and James Cromwell (“L.A. Confidential,” “Succession”).

CELEBRITIES

Hasty Pudding group to fete Garner

From news services

Jennifer Garner has been named Woman of the Year by Harvard University’s Hasty Pudding Theatricals, based not just on her career as an actor, but also because of her record as a philanthropist and entrepreneur, the organization said Thursday.

Garner, 49, will be the guest of honor at a Feb. 5 parade through Harvard Square, followed by a roast at which she will receive her pudding pot, the theater troupe said in a statement.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals, which dates to 1844 and bills itself the third oldest theater group in the world, established its Woman of the Year award in 1951 to honor people who have made “lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment.”

Garner was nominated for several Primetime Emmys for her role as Sydney Bristow in the television spy series “Alias.” She has been lauded for her work in several movies including “Juno,” “Dallas Buyers Club” and “13 Going on 30.”

Garner is a Save the Children trustee and has advocated on Capitol Hill and around the nation to raise awareness and funds for the organization. She also co-founded the organic food company Once Upon a Farm in 2017, with a goal of providing children with the highest quality food grown using sustainable methods.

Jason Bateman, who played Garner’s husband in the 2007 film “Juno,” was named 2022 Man of the Year last month.

Kotb absent from ‘Today’: “Today” co-anchor Hoda Kotb is “doing just fine” after testing positive for COVID-19. On Thursday, “Today” co-host Craig Melvin addressed Kotb’s



Jennifer Garner, seen Nov. 13, has been named Hasty Pudding Theatricals’ Woman of the Year. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION

absence from the broadcast and informed viewers of her condition.

“We should mention ... the reason Hoda is off” Melvin said while filling in for Kotb. “Like many others, (Kotb) tested positive for COVID. But Hoda tells us that she’s doing just fine, and we look forward to having her back very, very soon.”

On Twitter, Kotb thanked her well-wishers and confirmed she was “feeling good.” Before contracting the coronavirus, Kotb received a COVID-19 vaccine and booster shot.

Kotb is the latest NBC personality to contract COVID-19 after late-night TV hosts Seth Meyers and Jimmy Fallon said they tested positive for the coronavirus earlier this week.

Notb reportedly removed from ‘And Just Like That’ episode: Despite being

killed off in the “Sex and the City” reboot “And Just Like That,” Carrie Bradshaw’s husband Mr. Big was supposed to say one final goodbye in a flashback in the season finale, set to air Feb. 3.

But after star Chris Noth was accused of sexual assault by multiple women, HBO Max has magicked him out of the episode, according to TVLine.

A spokesperson for the streaming service declined to comment Thursday.

Noth has denied all allegations of misconduct.

Jan. 7 birthdays: Singer Kenny Loggins is 74. Actor Sammo Hung is 70. Actor David Caruso is 66. Journalist Katie Couric is 65. Bassist Kathy Valentine is 63. Actor Nicolas Cage is 58. Actor Jeremy Renner is 51. Singer John Rich is 48. Musician Aloe Blacc is 43. Actor Lauren Cohan is 40. Actor Marcus Scribner is 22.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Reconnecting elicits worrisome behavior

Dear Amy: I recently reconnected with a man I was engaged to, many years ago. We have not gotten together in person because we live several hours apart and are both in our 70s.

The problem is that he blames me for a breakup that happened 50 years ago! (His perception is incorrect, by the way.)

We do love one another and spend hours texting together. It is a “virtual romance,” and we are happy with that, but his constant reference about how I destroyed his life gives me a debilitating migraine, and I can’t function afterward for 24 hours!

I have told him that I’m not responsible for how he lived his life after we parted, but he simply says that he’s sad, and then we move forward, only to have the same outburst happen within the next day or two.

How can we resolve his anger management issues without breaking up again? — *Frustrated Old Lady*

Dear Frustrated: I’m not sure I can help you to help this man resolve his anger issues. That’s his job.

Is he experiencing some cognitive decline? Does he have untreated anxiety? Is he drinking when he does this? If so, he should take on the responsibility of taking care of his health.

His reasons for behaving this way are actually immaterial. Imagine that — instead of being yelled at textually — you two were actually in the same room when he did this. What would you do? How would you react?

I imagine that you would leave the room when he

raged. And then — once you had left — you might reconsider being in the relationship at all, because it has become a Groundhog Day reenactment.

Imagine further that you had a friend or family member witness one of these rages. That person would say to you, “This is abuse. Look at what it’s doing to you! It is damaging your health.” Abuse does not only happen in person. It can happen online, through text, on the phone, or via Zoom, FaceTime or postal mail.

I suggest that when this happens again, you respond: “I want our relationship to succeed and proceed peacefully. I completely dispute your memory of this. But regardless, I’m telling you now that if you ever communicate with me this way again, I really will break up with you. Do you understand?”

If he responds in any way other than to acknowledge and apologize, then you should break up. If he acknowledges and apologizes, but then reverts to his previous behavior, it’s over.

Dear Amy: I have a relative, “Steven,” whose father passed away on Steven’s birthday. Five years have passed, but yet it still feels odd when texting or writing out his card with a big “Happy Birthday!”

While I want him to enjoy his day, I know the feelings are mixed with missing him and guilt of celebrating his birth on an anniversary of his father’s passing.

What are some appropriate messages I could use in lieu of the standard

“Happy Birthday”? — *Wondering*

Dear Wondering: This is tough. I suggest that you convey: “I understand this might be a day of big and mixed emotions for you, but I hope you find good ways to celebrate. I’m always thinking of you, and I carry many very happy memories of your father.”

Dear Amy: A recent statement in your column struck hard! You wrote: “You mourn because you experienced the privilege of being loved.”

As a widow of five years, and someone whose husband had dementia for five years before that, it really hit home. I realized that I was so lucky to have him for the time that I did.

I have passed this phrase on to my grief group. Four of us have been together since 2017, and we continued to meet through the pandemic. We all agreed that we were privileged and lucky to have been loved. — *Grateful*

Dear Grateful: Thank you. My own experience with intense grief has led me to frequently explore the tougher emotions, looking for ways to learn from them.

Grief groups like yours are a true lifeline — a safe place to mourn, to commune, and to form friendships forged from tough steel. Carry on, move forward, and continue to support one another.

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DeBose earning acclaim for ‘bucket-list role’

Actor’s turn as Anita in new film even has approval of Moreno

By Brooke Cain
The Raleigh News & Observer

There was a moment when Ariana DeBose was auditioning for the role of Anita in Steven Spielberg’s new film version of “West Side Story” when she knew her life was going to change. It was at the end of her audition, and she had gotten a little lost in her own performance.

“I sort of came back to consciousness, and I looked up, because I was on the floor, weeping, and there he was standing over me, and he reached out to me, and he locked eyes with me, and he said ‘Thank you,’ and we were both crying,” DeBose said.

“He’s a man who has immense emotional depths. He’s an incredible director but he’s so present — he was present enough with me to feel everything I was feeling. I sort of knew then that if I got the job it would be life-changing because it’s so rare to be able to work with a director like that, and it really was one of the greatest working experiences I’ve ever had.”

It’s also perhaps the greatest performance of DeBose’s already impressive young career.

The 30-year-old singer, dancer and actor who grew up in North Carolina has reprised the role made famous by Rita Moreno in the 1961 film by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins. That film adaptation of the original 1957 stage production (with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Steven Sondheim) won 10 Academy Awards, including a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for Moreno.

Following in her footsteps, DeBose has earned glowing appraisals of her performance in the new version of “West Side Story.” In reviews that praise various cast



Ariana DeBose, center, as Anita in Steven Spielberg’s “West Side Story.” NIKO TAVERNISE/20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

members, DeBose is often singled out. DeBose is equal parts humbled by the praise, grateful for the chance in the role and confident in her execution.

“Anita is one of the greatest roles ever written in the musical theater canon,” she said. “It’s a triple-threat role, and it’s exactly what I am built to do. That’s exactly what my training and skill set has gifted me, so it’s a role I had always hoped I’d get a chance to play. ... I certainly never thought that I’d end up in a Spielberg film, but it was definitely a bucket-list role.”

DeBose’s performance even has the blessing of Moreno, who also has a part in the new movie. In interviews, Moreno has called DeBose “remarkable” and “marvelous.”

Hearing that kind of praise from a role model is nice, but can also be

difficult, DeBose says.

“I think sometimes it’s hard to hear praise, especially when it’s coming from someone who means a lot to you. But it does mean a lot,” DeBose said.

Her first meeting with Moreno on the set of “West Side Story” was memorable for its sheer awkwardness, DeBose said. Moreno had come to a rehearsal and was talking to the cast about her experiences coming to New York from Puerto Rico and making the 1961 film.

“In the middle of her speech she said, ‘Wait a minute, where is Anita? Where is Ariana?’ And the whole cast turned around, stared at me and started cheering,” DeBose said.

“She said ‘Nina, we have some talking to do.’ And it should have been something that I was like ‘Yes, we do!’ and instead I thought ‘Oh my God,

I’m horrified, what is happening to me? Oh no!’ and I had a full-out panic attack — because suddenly the woman I had admired from afar was very much right in front of me and wanted to talk to me, and it’s one of the first times in my life that I just didn’t know what to do with that.”

But after that initial freak-out, DeBose said she composed herself and worked up the courage to approach Moreno and apologize for the awkwardness. “And we had a really lovely lunch after that. At some point she was like, ‘You don’t need my help, you know what you’re doing. Just lean into everything that makes you unique.’”

One way DeBose is unique is that she is the first Afro-Latina actor to play the role of Anita, and that representation was important to her. She let Spielberg

know that right away.

“It was one of the first things I brought up when I was auditioning,” she said.

“I said if you’re not interested in exploring this — this is my lived identity, I am Afro-Latina — then I don’t know that I’m your girl, because I’m a Black woman. I walk through the world as a Black woman. And it’s not every day that Afro-Latina women get to play characters where the audience really gets to know their experience. ... So I was just basically like, if you’re not interested in that perspective I don’t think you should hire me.”

DeBose said that Tony Kushner, who wrote the screenplay, heard her and started working on ways to acknowledge that lived experience in the updated story. Being Afro-Latina, DeBose said, can mean a “double dose of prejudice,” and she believes this film

gives voice to that.

“We have this incredible scene that happens pre-‘America’ — it’s a familial scene between Anita, Bernardo and Maria, and it comes up in a very real way in the context of their family,” DeBose said.

“They have this very real discussion. Because colorism is real. I think it’s something that we don’t talk about, but the way we treat each other even inside of our communities is something we should all pay attention to as well. And it’s not just specific to the Latino community, but I find that to be a truth inside of many communities.

“And I just want to say that I’m really proud that Tony didn’t shy away from it, and Steven never shied away from it,” DeBose said. “You can also see it in the way that Lt. Schrank, the character played by Corey Stoll, the way that he interacts with Anita, and it’s not — it’s not kind, I’ll put it that way.”

Representation is an important aspect of this remake, with Spielberg casting Latin actors to play Latin characters. In the 1961 version, Moreno was famously the only Puerto Rican in the cast, with white actors in heavy makeup assigned to play the other Puerto Rican characters. As such, Anita became quite important to Moreno for the rest of her life — and she is now important to DeBose.

“She has said that Anita became her role model because growing up she didn’t have role models that looked like her, so she learned from her character,” DeBose said of Moreno.

“For me, Anita has taught me so much and she’s helped me embrace another facet of who I am and embrace my Hispanic heritage, and so she also means a lot to me. I feel so fortunate to have been able to share a space in time with Rita, to share this character with her.”

Mob drama ‘Cleaning Lady’ resides in a messy gray area

By Kate Feldman
New York Daily News

What would you do to save the life of your child?

That’s the question driving Fox’s new series “The Cleaning Lady,” which recently premiered.

The heart of the mob drama is Thony De La Rosa, a Cambodian doctor-turned-maid who left the Philippines to seek treatment in the United States for her son’s life-threatening immunodeficiency disorder. But when she becomes entwined in a gangster’s world after witnessing a murder, her own life is on the line unless she keeps cleaning up their spills.

“There’s a dark wish fulfillment element,” showrunner Melissa Carter said. “What would it take for me to commit a crime? What would it take for me to be OK with something that’s a little morally off-center? If the justification is that it would save your child, then people are on board.”

Justifications are the backbone of “The Cleaning Lady.”

Thony (played by French-Cambodian actor Elodie Yung) is trying to save her son’s life. Mobster Arman Morales (Mexican actor Adan Canto) is using his criminal profits to fund the Armenian army to protect his homeland. FBI Agent Garrett Miller (Oliver Hudson), who tries to flip Thony to serve as a mole, is doing his job.

“I really can’t approach my character and have any judgment in thinking this is bad what she’s doing, this is good, this is wrong. I can only approach her journey and what she’s got in her heart through empathy, through compassion, through putting myself in her shoes,” said Yung, 40.

“It’s very hard for me to



Elodie Yung plays Thony De La Rosa, a Cambodian doctor-turned-maid who left the Philippines to seek treatment in the U.S. for her son, in the drama “The Cleaning Lady.” FOX

even look now and have an intellectual way of looking at the story and what she’s done. She’s just being reactive. She’s made the decisions she has to make when she has to. Maybe not the best, but always having in mind the life of her son and the urgency of saving him.”

“The Cleaning Lady” lives in a messy gray area: the mobster who seems to genuinely care about Thony’s son and maybe even her, the FBI agent who toys with people’s lives all in the name of a win. There are no good guys and bad guys, Yung said.

“I’ve got qualities and I have flaws,” said the actor, whose own heritage helped inspire Thony, down to her character sharing the same name as her father’s cousin. “I have good days and bad days. I’ve made good decisions and bad decisions. I live with regret and hope.”

Miller, the buttoned-up boy in blue, is supposed to be the hero. But that’s not how it works, Hudson said.

Instead, the FBI agent has decided the end justifies the means, no matter who gets hurt in the process.

“If Thony gets to save her son, but three innocent people die because of her war, is that justified? ... What if it’s three bad guys?” said Hudson, 45.

“As a dad, I would kill for my kids. I would go to jail for my kids. I don’t know how you would ever stop fighting for a child, especially one who is going to die. You risk it all. You put it all on the line.”

And it’s what “The Cleaning Lady” explores: Is there anything you wouldn’t do for your children?

“People are complex and complicated,” showrunner Carter said. “It’s not black and white. It’s a gray, gray world.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You might be your own worst enemy today, as the views you defend in public could actually differ from some of your own private feelings. However, an authority figure that you respect may be able to break the tie.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Sharing your political or spiritual views with your friends could be validating for you today, as they might seem impressionable and open to what you are telling them. This may feel great. However, your audience may only want to go so deep. Be alert.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Your relationship with an authority figure may be totally frustrating for you at this time. You could feel like you can’t please them because their expectations are continually shifting. However, you might have to acknowledge it if they help you financially, though some strings are probably attached.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Someone that you’re close with may put a lot of pressure on you to change your views about an important topic. You might want to do the right thing for this person you care about, but you could also be conflicted by other commitments of yours. You need to tell someone no.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Jan. 7, 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation’s first chief executive.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Vague details about the way you share money or property with someone else may have gotten out of hand. Though you might have benefited from flexibility in the past, you could now be at a point where you need more specific boundaries in order to move forward.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): One of your close relationships may feel rather off-balance at this time. The other person could seem weak, creating a power vacuum you might feel tempted to step into. Taking on a parental role toward the other person is taking it too far.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You might have an intuitive sense of how to fix something broken in your home. However, explaining your plan to others could be frustrating, as the conversation may continually get derailed into assigning blame for the breaking rather than agreeing on how to do the fixing. Just do what needs to be done.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Telling people what they want to hear might succeed in getting you what you want now. While you may worry that this requires you to compromise your deeply held values, take a realistic look at how much information the person you’re dealing with actually needs in order to go away.

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional manipulation from your family might make asserting yourself challenging. Things could come down to simply whose feelings are bigger and louder. The status of your money might be less ambiguous. Make a purchase with your own money.

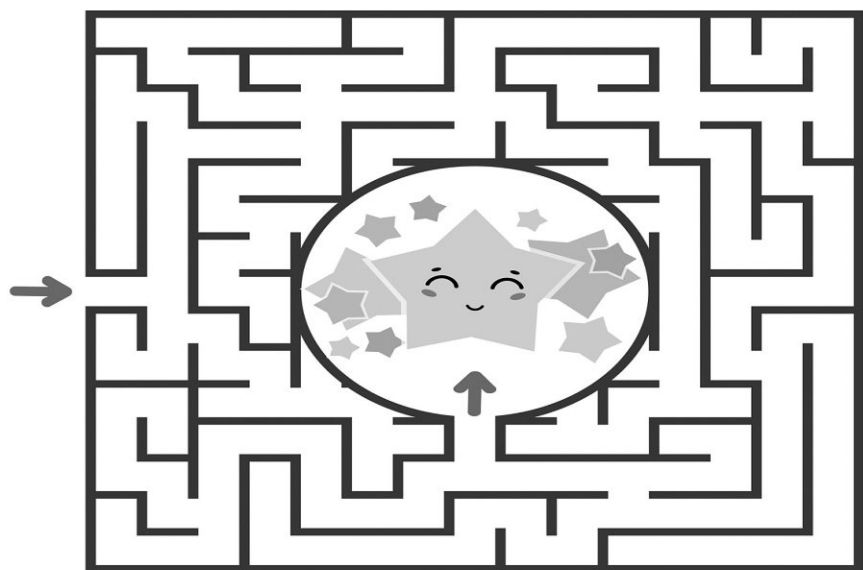
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): No matter what you say today, people may hear what they want to hear — even if they’re allegedly listening to you. You may enjoy the positive attention. However, if you had a message to convey, you could discover that it got lost in all the excitement.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It may be easy for friends or charitable organizations to gain money from you today. Before you open your wallet, be clear with yourself about what you hope to get out of giving. You might have an image of yourself as a good, caring person that you’re eager to maintain. Be sure to think about it first.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): An authority figure is pushing you to make a decision. The worst part might be fearing that your friends will be disappointed. See if you can wait until things calm down. In the meantime, you might want to consider whether or not the people pressuring you will have your back.

In 1999, for the second time, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

In 2015, masked gunmen stormed the offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper, killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car.



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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

PATRIOTS

‘This season is incredible’

Newcomers explain love for playing in New England

By Steve Hewitt
Boston Herald

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — When Bill Belichick broke the bank with a record-setting free agency haul last offseason, nothing was certain for the Patriots.

There were so many new players, with different personalities and experience levels. Belichick couldn’t have predicted how the puzzle pieces would fit together.

But as the Patriots enter the final week of the regular season with a somewhat surprising playoff spot already locked up, the coach couldn’t have asked for much more from his free agent class. Several of New England’s first-timers are having career seasons or making a significant impact on a team that plans to play deep into January.

Up next
Patriots at Dolphins
Sunday, 4:25 p.m. CBS



They haven’t only just individually adapted well in Foxborough. When they were all signed together, it feels as though this record-breaking free agent class formed a certain kind of bond that has ultimately paid dividends.

“When we all came in, it was fun,” tight end Hunter Henry said. “It was kind of like a fresh start for all of us. We’re all new, we all had heard about the Patriots and the culture, all this stuff, and I feel like there was a blend here of guys who had been here, who had been around and kind of know the culture and what it is, and then I

Turn to Patriots, Page 4



New England tight end Hunter Henry runs route in the second half against Jacksonville on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. STEW MILNE/AP

GIANTS

Judge plans to plow through season finale

By Pat Leonard
New York Daily News

Up next
WFT at Giants
Sunday, 1 p.m. FOX



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Joe Judge said he will waste no time after Sunday’s season finale before starting to prepare his Giants for year three.

“First thing Monday morning,” the head coach said Thursday. “It never really stops. As soon as this game’s done, we’ll talk with the players and then we’ll start planning immediately for next year.”

The Giants have lost five straight games by double digits without a capable quarterback or offensive line. Jake Fromm is expected to start Sunday when the Giants (4-12) host Washington (6-10). And Judge, 40, has been raked over the coals nationally for an out-of-body post-game defense of his program last Sunday.

But Judge is clearly proceeding as if he’ll be the Giants’ head coach for a third season in 2022.

And his assistant coaches and players lined up behind him Thursday.

“A lot of times when you’re building on swamp ground, you’ve got to go 10 times deeper before you start going up,” special teams coordinator Thomas McGaughey said. “We’re all on swamp ground [in the Meadowlands] and it’s a little harder here. It’s not Cleveland. It’s not other places. It’s New York City and it’s harder to build here.”

Saquon Barkley said Judge’s “passionate” defense of the team rang true with the players.

“He said things that he felt and that he believed in, and that a lot of players in the locker room believe in, too,” Barkley said. “What I took from it was the

Turn to Giants, Page 4

TENNIS

Djokovic in limbo as he fights to stay in Australia

By John Pye
Associated Press

Locked in a dispute over his COVID-19 vaccination status, Novak Djokovic was confined to an immigration detention hotel in Australia on Thursday as the No. 1 men’s tennis player in the world awaited a court ruling on whether he can compete in the Australian Open later this month.

Djokovic, a vocal skeptic of vaccines, had traveled to Australia after Victoria state authorities granted him a medical exemption to the country’s strict vaccination requirements. But when he arrived late Wednesday, the Australian Border Force rejected his exemption as invalid and barred him from entering the country.

A court hearing on his bid to stave off deportation was set for Monday, while the 34-year-old Serb and defending Australian Open champion was forced to wait it out in Melbourne at a secure hotel used by immigration officials to house asylum seekers and refugees.

The tournament begins on Jan. 17. Djokovic is hoping to overtake rivals Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer in the record books and win his 21st Grand Slam singles title, the most by any player in men’s tennis.

Djokovic’s securing of an exemption so that he could play triggered an uproar and allegations of special treatment in Australia, where people spent months in lockdown and endured harsh travel restrictions at the height of the pandemic.

After his long-haul flight, the tennis star spent the night trying to convince authorities he had the necessary documentation, to no avail.

“The rule is very clear,” Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. “You need to have a medical exemption. He didn’t have a valid medical exemption. We make the call at the border, and that’s where it’s enforced.”

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the athlete’s visa was canceled after

Turn to Djokovic, Page 4



UConn men’s basketball coach Dan Hurley, right, will have a roster that is close to full strength as the Huskies resume their season that was halted by COVID-19 issues on Saturday at Seton Hall. JESSICA HILL/AP

UConn MEN’S BASKETBALL

Reinforcements on the way

After COVID-caused layoff, Huskies are getting closer to full strength for Saturday’s game at Seton Hall

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

The UConn men’s basketball team will be heading into their Big East Conference game at Seton Hall on Saturday a little closer to full health. After having nine players with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms, UConn (10-3, 1-1) should have nearly everyone back.

UConn star Adama Sanogo has been limited in practice over the past week after a hamstring injury that occurred in the second half of the 78-70 win against Marquette. His status heading into Seton Hall game is still being monitored

according to UConn coach Dan Hurley.

Because of the COVID issues, UConn hasn’t had a full team practice since Dec. 20.

“We’ve kind of got our numbers (of players) up each day,” said Hurley. “(Thursday) we got to double figures, but a couple of those guys were limited to certain segments of practice.”

UConn had to cancel two games in the past weeks but Hurley doesn’t anticipate having anymore games cancelled due to lack of roster availability. Players that have missed practice will still play, just in a limited fashion.

On A1
UConn announces fans need proof of vaccine or negative test to attend sporting events.

Up next

UConn men at Seton Hall, Saturday, noon, FOX



“I think we will just limit them in terms of minutes,” Hurley said. “That was the issue with Adama, we limited him to 12-15 minutes in the Marquette game and he still tweaked a hamstring because he is still not in game shape because of the abdominal thing.”

Huskies leading scorer R.J. Cole revealed he was among the UConn players that had COVID-19.

“The first day I came back, I was a little tired,” Cole said. “Now that we’ve been working out more, I’ve been able to keep my condition-

ing up.”

The entire roster is completely vaccinated and in the past week a number of players have received the booster. The players that didn’t have COVID-19 have spent their days working on individual workouts.

“The guys who didn’t have COVID-19, they weren’t getting live 5-on-5 or getting live practices in either,” Hurley said. “They were doing individual workouts, weightlifting, and doing cardio, the VersaClimber and the Assault Bike which isn’t really the same... we weren’t really able to do anything teamwide until really Monday.”

Friday will be an important practice for the Huskies.

“[It] be the first practice where you will have much more of team without limitations and you can

Turn to UConn, Page 4



Safety Tip of the Day

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: at Dolphins, Sunday, 4:25 p.m.
Giants: Washington, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: at Bills, Sunday, 4:25 p.m.
UConn MBB: at Seton Hall, Saturday, noon; St. John's (Gampel), Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.; at Providence, Jan. 15, 2 p.m.
UConn WBB: Creighton (Gampel), Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Butler, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Xavier (XL), Jan. 15, noon
Celtics: Knicks, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Pacers, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pacers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Knicks: at Celtics, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Spurs, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Mavericks, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Bucks, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Spurs, Sunday, noon; at Trail Blazers, Monday, 10 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Boston Coll., Saturday, 4 p.m.; at AIC, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Lightning, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Capitals, Monday, 7 p.m.; Canadiens, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Ducks, Saturday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Monday, 10:30 p.m.; at Sharks, Thursday, 10:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Rochester, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Utica, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Charlotte, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

ON AIR

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m.: Kent St. at Ohio. CBSSN
6:30 p.m.: Marquette at Georgetown. FS1
7 p.m.: Milwaukee at Detroit Mercy. ESPN2
COLLEGE HOCKEY
6:30 p.m.: Minnesota at Michigan St. BTN
8:30 p.m.: Denver at Nebraska (Omaha). CBSSN
COLLEGE WRESTLING
9 p.m.: Minnesota at Iowa. BTN
FIGURE SKATING
8 p.m.: U.S. Championships: Women's free skate. NBC
GOLF
6 p.m.: PGA Tour: Sentry Tournament of Champions, second round. Golf
HORSE RACING
2:30 p.m.: America's Day at the Races. FS2
NBA
7:30 p.m.: Milwaukee Bucks at Brooklyn Nets. (Live), ESPN, YES.
10 p.m.: Atlanta at L.A. Lakers. ESPN
NHL
7 p.m.: Rochester Americans at Hartford Wolf Pack. (Live), Radio: 1410.
8 p.m.: Washington at St. Louis. NHL
TENNIS
6 a.m.: Center Court: ATP Cup, semifinal; Adelaide-WTA, quarterfinals; and Melbourne-WTA, quarterfinals. Tennis
7 p.m.: Center Court: ATP Cup, semifinal; Adelaide-WTA, semifinal; and Melbourne-WTA, semifinal. Tennis
WINTER OLYMPIC TRIALS
6 p.m.: U.S. qualifying. USA
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
7 p.m.: Princeton at Columbia. ESPN
WOMEN'S COLLEGE GYMNASTICS
7 p.m.: West Virginia at LSU. SEC

NETS

Irving shakes off nerves in return to action

By Kristian Winfield
New York Daily News

INDIANAPOLIS — Kyrie Irving is so locked in, he's zoned out his teammate.

It's pregame warmups ahead of Irving's first game of the season after the Nets ruled him eligible for road games, and James Johnson chirped in his direction.

Maybe it's a joke. Maybe it's an ice-breaker. But nothing is breaking Irving's focus.

He's wrapping up his first warmup ahead of the Pacers game and after nailing a flurry of crossover-combination and spot-up jump shots, Irving goes perfect from the foul line.

Then he wraps his pregame warmup with a two-handed dunk before sprinting off the floor. Just like old times.

Yet on the inside, this is far from routine. Irving is nervous. He's had many debuts in his life — his debut at St. Patrick's High School (now The Patrick School), his first game at Duke, and



Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask Rask is getting closer to a return to action with the Bruins after signing a professional tryout agreement with AHL Providence. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

BRUINS

Tuukka Rask ready to roll with AHL in Providence

By Steve Conroy
Boston Herald

BOSTON — The next step in Tuukka Rask's journey to return to the Boston Bruins will come Friday night, when the veteran netminder is expected to start for the Providence Bruins against the Lehigh Valley Phantoms at the Dunkin' Donuts Center at 7:05 p.m.

Rask signed a professional tryout agreement with Providence on Thursday. It will be the first time he straps on the pads for live game action since the B's were bounced out of the playoffs by the New York Islanders last spring.

Speaking to reporters for the first time since then, Rask said he is feeling better than he has in over a year and is ready for this next phase of his comeback from a hip injury, which he anticipates will be brief before he returns in a Boston uniform.

"I feel great. The biggest issue for me was the catching of the joint and the pain that that created, so that all is gone," said Rask after practicing in Providence.

"It makes a huge difference, because every time I go to butterfly and get up, I don't have to think about it locking up once again and creating that pain, so I feel great."

Rask, who'll turn 35 on March 10, said the hip had bothered him all of last season.

"It was just one of those wear-and-tear situations when you hit enough miles where your body's just starting to break up on you and for goalies, the hips are the first things to go usually," said Rask, the B's all-time winningest goalie, who owns 306 career wins and a .921 lifetime save percentage.

The hip didn't really bother him in his everyday movement and, if he had chosen to retire, he probably would not have bothered getting the surgery.

"It was just for hockey," said Rask. "If I didn't decide to play anymore and I didn't want to pursue rehab and whatnot, I didn't have to do the surgery. But because I wanted to have a good quality of life and then want to play hockey again, it was basically the

only option. But it is nice that now I've been practicing quite a bit with high volume that the pain doesn't come after practice like it used to. That's the biggest difference."

While no contract has been registered with the NHL yet, it certainly sounds like the parameters of a deal are set.

"We have a plan in place and it shouldn't be an issue. But we'll see. I plan on playing (Friday) and we'll see about Sunday then moving forward next week I should be with the big guys," said Rask.

Rask said he's not thinking farther down the road than the next couple of weeks, which suggests that, as many have suspected, this next contract will not go beyond this season.

A few months ago he joked during a radio interview that he would be willing to come back to play for Bud Light. Asked if that was still the case, Rask chuckled.

"We'll see. I haven't seen the contract yet. I'm guessing that might be frowned upon but we'll find out," said Rask.

KNICKS

Robinson is more concerned with COVID-19 virus now

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Mitchell Robinson was in-and-out of COVID-19 protocols without ever testing positive. But now he's more concerned about the virus.

The Knicks center quarantined for two days and missed Sunday's loss to the Raptors following an inconclusive test, he said. Robinson was cleared after just two days and returned with vigor in a win over the Pacers, when he played 25 productive minutes with eight rebounds (four offensive).

"[The test] was inconclusive," the 23-year-old said. "So, it wasn't a yes, it wasn't

a no. Then I got two tests back that were negative, so I didn't have it. That's just stuff you're gonna go through. It's been a couple years with this corona stuff going around."

Robinson wore a mask during his interview following Wednesday's practice and said he's now ultra careful. The Knicks were decimated by COVID-19 — with as many as eight players in the protocol at one point — but have since cleared everybody.

"I keep this mask on even more," Robinson said. "You see I warm up with it on. I don't want that. I don't want that COVID stuff. I heard it from different people [how it can affect you]. I don't want that at

all, no."

Kemba's staus: Kemba Walker was a partial participant in Wednesday's practice and Tom Thibodeau said the point guard didn't do much.

"Rehab stuff," the coach said.

Walker's missed three straight games with a sore left knee, which was inflamed during warmups on New Year's Eve. He's officially listed as day-to-day for Thursday's home game against the Celtics.

Center Nerlens Noel, who has missed seven straight games after testing positive for COVID-19, has cleared protocols but is still recovering from his conditioning and is also listed as "day-to-day."

YANKEES

Chavez to join Mets as hitting coach

By New York Daily News

NEW YORK — The Mets began the offseason by swiping back pages from the Yankees by signing big name players and hiring veteran manager Buck Showalter. Now, they are stealing personnel.

After the Yankees made their biggest splash of the winter by naming former Gold Glover Eric Chavez an assistant hitting coach, they have lost him to the Mets, an industry source confirmed.

MLB.com was first to report the news of Chavez leaving for the Mets.

Instead of being Aaron Boone's "Swiss Army (knife)," of a coach in the Bronx, the 17-year big leaguer will instead be Showalter's hitting coach with the Mets. He joins a staff that is expected to include Joey Cora as third base coach and Wayne Kirby as first base coach. Pitching coach Jeremy Hefner was the only on-field coach retained from Luis Rojas' staff.

It is customary for coaches to be let out of their contracts/agreements for a position that is considered a promotion.

The Mets had actually considered Chavez to become their bench coach, according to multiple people with knowledge of the process. Mets brass debated whether Chavez was a better fit as the team's primary hitting instructor, or Showalter's man Friday. Following a tricky negotiation process with the Yankees, the Mets tabbed Chavez as their hitting coach with the intention to name a younger, analytics-driven individual as their bench coach. The Mets have not yet announced their bench coach, but are expected to fill their entire staff by the weekend.

The Yankees had announced their finalized coaching staff just before Christmas with minor league hitting coordinator Dillon Lawson promoted to hitting coach,

replacing Marcus Thames. Desi Druschel went from being the team's minor league manager of pitching development to an assistant pitching coach. Casey Dykes, the Triple-A Scranton hitting coach as an assistant to Lawson. The former Mets manager Rojas is the Yankees' new third base/outfield coach and announced that longtime minor league coach and field coordinator Travis Chapman will replace Reggie Willits as the first base coach.

Returning to the staff are bench coach Carlos Mendoza, pitching coach Matt Blake, long-time bullpen coach Mike Harkey and catching coordinator and quality-control coach Tanner Swanson.

Boone had said that while Chavez would officially be called the assistant to Lawson, he envisioned his impact in many more ways.

"So he's someone that I kind of wanted to dig on a little bit more and talk to, and it's kind of this role I've had, in my head he had a great career, a prominent Major League career, the great defender, outstanding player hitter, has worn some different hats already post (playing) career from a front office standpoint," Boone said last month of hiring Chavez.

"So I've kind of envisioned this role of having this guy that can kind of grow in a role, and brings the presence to the coaching staff, brings a presence to the room, and I feel like, has a lot of things to offer," the Yankees manager continued. "As I kind of dug in and started to have conversations with him, (as) we put him through the interview process, he, in a lot of ways, blew me away."

"He's got a really good perspective on the game. He's very open minded. So, he's part of the hitting crew, which he absolutely is, he's got to be more than that, I kind of view him as a little bit of a Swiss Army (knife), where he's gonna have a lot of different responsibilities."



Former Athletics third baseman Eric Chavez throws out the ceremonial first pitch prior to a game March 29, 2019 in Oakland, Calif. **BEN MARGOT/AP**

Former Mets GM Scott found not guilty of both counts after DWI arrest

By Matthew Roberson
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — On Thursday morning, former Mets acting general manager Zack Scott was found not guilty of driving while intoxicated (DWI). He was also found not guilty of driving while ability impaired by alcohol (DWAI), a lesser charge.

Scott was arrested on Aug. 31 in White Plains after a party at Mets owner Steve Cohen's mansion in Connecticut. He pleaded not guilty after the incident and was immediately placed on administrative leave by the Mets, who then fired him in November. Scott had been serving as the acting GM after Jared Porter was fired in January 2021 for sexual harassment.

Porter is currently banned by Major League Baseball until the end of the 2022 season, when he can apply for reinstatement.

"I am thankful for today's verdict," Scott said in a statement. "Nonetheless, I regret choices I made on August 31, resulting in circumstances that led to my arrest."

White Plains police officers found Scott asleep at the wheel at the intersection of Fisher Ave. and

S. Lexington Ave. on the morning of his arrest. A guilty DWI verdict could have carried up to a year in jail. Instead, the 45-year-old was given two tickets that will cost him \$100 each, according to reports.

"We are grateful for the judge's diligent attention and consideration of the evidence, and believe he arrived at the only conclusion possible," said Bruce Bendish, Scott's attorney. "While we understand and appreciate the reasons why the police officers suspected that Mr. Scott was driving while intoxicated, and respect their decision to place him under arrest, the simple fact was that Mr. Scott was not intoxicated or impaired by alcohol that evening."

Scott was originally scheduled for sentencing on Dec. 16, but he came down with COVID-19, delaying the case until Thursday. When he was arrested, Scott refused a breathalyzer test and failed a field sobriety test. However, during the court proceedings, Judge Eric Press said that police bodycam footage from the scene "didn't indicate a person was intoxicated by any stretch of the imagination."



The Brooklyn Nets' Kyrie Irving shoots during the first half against the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday in Indianapolis. **DARRON CUMMINGS/AP**

each of his first games in Cleveland, Boston and Brooklyn — but this one is different.

This is his first game back since his decision to not get vaccinated against COVID-19 left his teammates handicapped at home due to New York City's vaccine mandate, even if to start the season the Nets exiled him in the name of continuity.

"It's a lot of gratitude just to be present tonight with

everyone and just go out there and have fun doing what we love to do," he says.

"With me joining right now, I feel like I have a voice to say things, but really, it's just an add-on to what (head coach Steve Nash) has been saying, to what our leadership has been saying on the team."

Now it's tipoff, and Irving's nerves are getting the best of him. Nash drew up the game's first play for his debuting point guard —

what he called "a welcome-back gift" — and the ball works its way from James Harden to Nic Claxton, into a dribble hand-off to Irving, who takes his man off the dribble, gets to his sweet spot at the foul line and fades for a mid-range jump shot.

As Irving fades right, however, his shot fades left and grazes the rim before falling into an opponent's hands. He tries again shortly after, spinning around a Pacers defender for a layup at the rim — a layup Indiana's shot-blocker Myles Turner pins to the backboard, starting a transition opportunity.

"I went in with just an open mindset, just to ground myself, be present and do whatever it takes to win," Irving explains. "In the first possession when I shot that shot, I was so caught up in just making my first two points, I was so nervous. Naturally, as a performer, I still get nervous. But that first shot, I wanted that to go in."

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	24	12	.667	—
Philadelphia	21	16	.568	3 1/2
Toronto	18	17	.514	5 1/2
Boston	18	20	.474	7
New York	18	20	.474	7

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	24	15	.615	—
Charlotte	20	19	.513	4
Washington	19	19	.500	4 1/2
Atlanta	17	20	.459	6
Orlando	7	32	.179	17

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	25	10	.714	—
Milwaukee	25	15	.625	2 1/2
Cleveland	21	17	.553	5 1/2
Indiana	14	25	.359	13
Detroit	7	29	.194	18 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	25	14	.641	—
Dallas	20	18	.526	4 1/2
San Antonio	15	22	.405	9
New Orleans	13	25	.342	11 1/2
Houston	11	28	.282	14

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	28	10	.737	—
Denver	18	18	.500	9
Minnesota	18	20	.474	10
Portland	14	23	.378	13 1/2
Oklahoma City	13	24	.351	14 1/2

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Golden State	29	8	.784	—
Phoenix	29	8	.784	—
L.A. Lakers	20	19	.513	10
L.A. Clippers	19	19	.500	10 1/2
Sacramento	16	24	.400	14 1/2

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Thurs at New York, late
Detroit at Memphis, late
Golden State at New Orleans, late
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
San Antonio at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Utah at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Dallas at Houston, 8p.m.
Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Washington at Chicago, 8p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9p.m.
Atlanta at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.
Cleveland at Portland, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 140, Detroit 111
Philadelphia 116, Orlando 106
Houston 114, Washington 111
San Antonio 99, Boston 97
Dallas 99, Golden State 82
Brooklyn 129, Indiana 121
Minnesota 98, Oklahoma City 90
Toronto 117, Milwaukee 111
Utah 115, Denver 109
Atlanta 108, Sacramento 102
Miami 115, Portland 109

ALL STAR FAN VOTING
EAST CONFERENCE FRONT COURT
Kevin Durant Brk 2,360,435
Giannis Antetokounmpo Mil 2,145,835
Joel Embiid Phi 1,236,060
Jayson Tatum Bos 643,970
Jimmy Butler Mia 522,513
Jarett Allen Cle 168,019
Bam Adebayo Mia 141,693
Miles Bridges Char 122,554
LaMarcus Aldridge Brk 111,318
Nikola Vucevic Chi 92,936

EAST CONFERENCE BACK COURT
DeMar DeRozan Chi 1,487,598
James Harden Brk 892,065
Trae Young Atl 862,878
Zach LaVine Chi 776,043
LaMelo Ball Char 422,247
Kyrie Irving Brk 267,929
Derrick Rose NY 232,501
Tyler Herro Mia 122,224
Darius Garland Cle 119,399
Fred VanVleet Tor 108,529

WEST CONFERENCE FRONT COURT
LeBron James LAL 2,018,725
Nikola Jokic Den 1,649,809
Paul George LAC 1,072,591
Andrew Wiggins GS 933,355
Draymond Green GS 691,423
Anthony Davis LAL 592,281
Karl-Anthony Towns Min 474,794
Carmelo Anthony LAL 319,128
Rudy Gobert Utah 218,819
Deandre Ayton Phx 177,115

WEST CONFERENCE BACK COURT
Stephen Curry GS 2,584,623
Luka Doncic Dal 787,690
Ja Morant Mem 669,033
Klay Thompson GS 367,743
Devin Booker Phx 338,526
Chris Paul Phx 315,912
Donovan Mitchell Utah 217,546
Damian Lillard Por 211,362
Russell Westbrook LAL 210,055
Anthony Edwards Min 128,863

All-Star Weekend: Feb. 18-20, Cleveland

FAST BREAK POINTS

PLAYER	TM	GP	FBP
G Antetokounmpo	Mil	31	133
Anthony Edwards	Min	32	124
LeBron James	LAL	27	122
Ja Morant	Mem	27	116
Josh Hart	NO	30	116
Stephen Curry	GS	35	113
Devin Booker	Phx	30	112
Zach LaVine	Chi	33	108

through Wednesday; nba.com

ODDS				
COLLEGE BASKETBALL				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG		
Marquette	2	at Georgetown		
at Ohio	7 1/2	Kent State		
at Fairfield	4	Marist		
at Holytown St	6 1/2	Fort Wayne		
at Detroit Mercy	5	Milwaukee		
at Harvard	2 1/2	Brown		
at Oakland	15 1/2	Green Bay		
at Penn	3 1/2	Cornell		
Cleveland State	7	at Robert Morris		
Xavier	5 1/2	at Butler		

NBA FAVORITE				
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	FRIDAY UNDERDOG	
at Philadelphia	5 1/2	(219)	San Antonio	
at Toronto	off	(off)	Utah	
at Brooklyn	off	(off)	Milwaukee	
at Brookly	7	(219 1/2)	at Washington	
at Houston	off	(off)	Dallas	
Minnesota	5	(214 1/2)	at Okla. City	
at Denver	7	(222)	Sacramento	
Cleveland	4	(215 1/2)	at Portland	
at LA Lakers	2	(225)	Atlanta	

NHL FAVORITE				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	FRIDAY UNDERDOG	
at Carolina	off	Calgary	off	
at St. Louis	off	Washington	off	

COLLEGE FOOTBALL				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG	
Georgia	2 1/2	(52 1/2)	Alabama	
FCS Playoffs Championship	Saturday			
North Dakota St. 78	(42)	Montana State		

NFL WEEK 18 FAVORITE				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG	
Kansas City	11 1/2	(45 1/2)	at Denver	
Dallas	4 1/2	(43 1/2)	at Philadelphia	

SUNDAY

at Minnesota	5 1/2	(44 1/2)	Chicago	
Washington	7	(38)	at NY Giants	
Green Bay	3 1/2	(44 1/2)	at Detroit	
Tennessee	10	(43)	at Houston	
at Baltimore	6	(41 1/2)	Pittsburgh	
Indianapolis	15 1/2	(44)	at Jacksonville	
at Cleveland	6	(38)	Cincinnati	
at Arizona	6 1/2	(48)	Seattle	
New Orleans	4	(40)	at Atlanta	
at Buffalo	16 1/2	(41 1/2)	NY Jets	
at LA Rams	4	(44 1/2)	San Fran.	
New England	6 1/2	(40)	at Miami	
at Tampa Bay	8	(41 1/2)	Carolina	
LA Chargers	3	(49 1/2)	at Las Vegas	

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	35	22	8	5	49	116	103			
Florida	33	22	7	4	48	128	97			
Toronto	32	22	8	2	46	108	78			
Boston	29	17	10	2	36	85	76			
Detroit	34	16	15	3	35	96	114			
Buffalo	33	10	17	6	26	89	116			
Ottawa	29	9	18	2	20	79	107			
Montreal	34	7	23	4	18	73	123			
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
N.Y. Rangers	34	22	8	4	48	101	85			
Washington	34	20	6	8	48	119	89			
Carolina	31	23	7	1	47	106	66			
Pittsburgh	33	19	8	5	43	104	84			
Philadelphia	33	13	14	6	32	86	110			
Columbus	31	15	15	1	31	101	112			
New Jersey	34	13	16	5	31	99	121			
N.Y. Islanders	28	10	12	6	26	64	80			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Nashville	34	21	11	2	44	104	91			
St. Louis	34	19	10	5	43	119	96			
Colorado	29	19	8	2	40	123	96			
Minnesota	31	19	10	2	40	116	98			
Winnipeg	32	16	11	5	37	98	92			
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85			
Chicago	33	11	17	5	27	77	112			
Arizona	31	6	22	3	15	64	120			
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Vegas	36	22	13	1	45	129	110			
Anaheim	36	18	11	7	43	111	99			
Calgary	31	17	8	6	40	100	73			
Edmonton	34	18	14	2	38	113	111			
Los Angeles	33	16	12	5	37	91	89			
San Jose	34	17	16	1	35	96	108			
Vancouver	34	16	15	3	35	89	95			
Seattle	33	10	19	4	24	92	122			

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Calgary at Tampa Bay, late
Columbus at New Jersey, late
Minnesota at Boston, late
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, late
San Jose at Buffalo, late
Florida at Dallas, late
Chicago at Arizona, late
Winnipeg at Colorado, late
Detroit at Anaheim, late
N.Y. Rangers at Vegas, late
Nashville at Los Angeles, late
Toronto at Montreal, ppd
Ottawa at Seattle, ppd

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Calgary at Carolina, 7p.m.
Washington at St. Louis, 8p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 4, Edmonton 2
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 3
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver, ppd

SEASON LEADERS				
POWER PLAY GOALS	PP	TM	GP	G
Leon Draisaitl	13	EDM	34	26
Chris Kreider	12	NYR	34	20
Alex DeBrincat	8	CHI	33	20
Pierre-Luc Dubois	8	WPG	32	15
Auston Matthews	8	TOR	29	20
Mikko Rantanen	7	COL	26	15
Steven Stamkos	7	TBL	34	16
Sebastian Aho	6	CAR	28	15
Joel Eriksson Ek	6	MIN	30	11
Roman Josi	6	NSH	32	11
Andrew Mangiapane	6	CGY	31	18
Alex Ovechkin	6	WSH	34	24
Joe Pavelski	6	DAL	29	12
Evan Rodrigues	6	PIT	32	14

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1. Baylor (14-0) did not play. Next: at TCU, Saturday.
2. Duke (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Saturday.
3. Purdue (12-2) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Saturday.
4. Gonzaga (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Pepperdine, Saturday.
5. UCLA (8-1) vs. Long Beach St. Next: at California, Saturday.
6. Kansas (12-1) did not play. Next: at #25 Texas Tech, Saturday.
7. Southern Cal (12-0) at California. Next: vs. Oregon St., Thursday, Jan. 13.
8. Arizona (12-1) did not play. Next: Arizona State, Saturday.
9. Auburn (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Saturday.
10. Michigan State (13-2) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Saturday.
11. Iowa State (13-1) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma, Saturday.
12. Houston (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wichita St., Saturday.
13. Ohio State (9-2) at Indiana. Next: vs. Northwestern, Sunday.
14. Texas (12-2) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.
15. Alabama (11-3) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Saturday.
16. Kentucky (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.
16. Providence (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Saturday.
18. Tennessee (10-3) did not play. Next: at #21 LSU, Saturday.
19. Villanova (10-4) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Saturday.
20. Colorado State (11-0) did not play. Next: at Boise State, Friday.
21. LSU (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. #18 Tennessee, Saturday.
22. Xavier (11-2) did not play. Next: at Butler, Friday.
23. Wisconsin (11-2) vs. Iowa. Next: at Maryland, Sunday.
24. Seton Hall (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. UConn, Saturday.
25. Texas Tech (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. #6 Kansas, Saturday.

THURSDAY'S SCORES
EAST
Johnson Wales (RI) 78, Colby Sawyer 63
NIJT 77, Mass.-Lowell 72
Norwich 82, Regis College 79, OT
Rosemont 66, Cairn 56
Saint Joseph's (Maine) 76, Rivier 66
SOUTH
McNeese St. 92, New Orleans 82, 2OT
Radford 82, SC-Upstate 77
SE Louisiana 90, Houston Baptist 81
SOUTHWEST
Ozarks 86, Belhaven 80
Texas A&M-CC 89, Northwestern St. 67
WEST
Loyola Chicago 79, San Francisco 74

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1. South Carolina (13-1) at #13 LSU. Next: vs. #21 Kentucky, Sunday.
2. Stanford (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon, Friday.
3. Louisville (13-1) beatate Pittsburgh 81-39. Next: at Miami, Sunday.
4. Arizona (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Friday.
5. NC State (12-0) vs. #19 North Carolina. Next: at #20 Notre Dame, Sunday.
6. Indiana (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Thursday, Jan. 13.
7. Tennessee (14-1) beat #25 Texas A&M 73-45. Next: at Mississippi, Sunday.
8. Michigan (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Sunday.
9. Texas (10-2) did not play. Next: at #14 Baylor, Sunday.
10. Maryland (11-4) beate Penn State 106-78. Next: at Minnesota, Sunday.
11. UConn (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Creighton, Sunday.
12. Iowa St. (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.
13. LSU (14-1) vs. #1 South Carolina. Next: at Auburn, Sunday.
14. Baylor (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. #9 Texas, Sunday.
15. Georgia (12-3) lost to #21 Kentucky 84-76. Next: vs. Alabama, Sunday.
16. Georgia Tech (10-3) vs. #17 Duke, ppp. Next: vs. Virginia, Sunday.
17. Duke (10-2) vs. #16 Ga. Tech, ppp. Next: Next: at Syracuse, Sunday.
18. BYU (10-1) at San Francisco. Next: vs. Pacific, Saturday.
19. North Carolina (13-0) at #5 NC State. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Sunday.
20. Notre Dame (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. #5 NC State, Sunday.
21. Kentucky (8-3) beat #15 Georgia 84-76. Next: at #1 S. Carolina, Sunday.
22. Iowa (7-3) vs. Northwestern. Next: at Nebraska, Sunday.
23. Oklahoma (12-2) did not play. Next: at Kansas, Saturday.
24. South Florida (11-4) did not play. Next: vs. Wichita State, Sunday.
25. Texas A&M (10-0) lost to #7 Tennessee 73-45. Next: vs. Florida, Sunday.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
x-Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	456	279
x-New England	10	6	0	.625	438	270
e-Miami	8	8	0	.500	308	349
e-N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	300	477
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
y-Tennessee	11	5	0	.688	391	329
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	440	339
e-Houston	4	12	0	.250	255	424
e-Jacksonville	2	14	0	.125	227	446
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
y-Cincinnati	10	6	0	.625	444	355
Pittsburgh	8	7	1	.531	327	385
Baltimore	8	8	0	.500	374	376
e-Cleveland	7	9	0	.438	328	355
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	452	340
L.A. Chargers	9	7	0	.562	442	424
Las Vegas	9	7	0	.563	339	307
e-Denver	7	9	0	.438	311	294

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: at Seton Hall,
noon, FOX

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: vs. Creighton
(at Gampel), 1 p.m., SNY

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

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10 NFL Draft first-round prospects for the Jets and Giants

By Nick Klopsis
Newsday

NEW YORK — The 2022 NFL Draft will be held in Las Vegas, but it's shaping up to be a very New York affair.

With one week left in the regular season, the Jets and Giants each are projected to have two top-10 picks. The 4-12 Jets are projected to pick fourth, and thanks to the Jamal Adams trade in July 2020, they also have 6-10 Seattle's first-rounder, which is currently projected to be seventh overall. The 4-12 Giants are projected to draft fifth, and they own 6-10 Chicago's first-rounder (currently projected to be eighth) as a result of the Bears' trade up for Justin Fields last April.

The two teams also have some common offseason needs, particularly along the offensive line and in the defensive front seven. Here are 10 top prospects who figure to be available early in the draft for Jets and Giants fans to keep an eye on this offseason:

Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama: Williams stepped into a starting role in 2021 and immediately became one of Alabama's biggest playmakers, catching 75 passes for 1,507 yards and 15 touchdowns. He may be the fastest receiver in this class, with the speed to take the top off a defense and



Alabama wide receiver Jameson Williams makes a catch during the Cotton Bowl NCAA College Football Playoff semifinal game on Dec. 31 in Arlington, Texas. MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

the acceleration to blow by defenders at the snap and with the ball in his hands.

Evan Neal, OT, Alabama: Neal is listed on Alabama's web site at 6-6, 360 pounds. You'd expect someone of that stature to be extremely powerful, especially in the run game, and Neal does not disappoint there. The surprise comes when you

watch him at left tackle and see someone who moves like he's 100 pounds lighter: his footwork and technique are very sound. He also has experience at left guard and right tackle.

Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa: Pure centers typically don't go top-10 unless they're special, and Linderbaum may be one of the best

centers to come out in recent memory. He has the power to impact the run game and the footwork to be an asset in pass protection. He also shows excellent awareness and intelligence when making pre-snap calls.

Ikem Ekwonu, OT/OG, North Carolina State: If you're looking for a blocker who relishes send-

ing defenders flying backward, Ekwonu may be your guy. He's a tough, physical mauler with excellent power at the point of attack. He was a three-year starter at left tackle for the Wolfpack, but he does have some experience inside at guard.

Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State: Cross made big strides in pass protection as a junior. He allowed just two sacks and 16 pressures on 719 pass-blocking snaps in 2021, according to Pro Football Focus. Add that to his excellent size and power, and Cross becomes one of the most well-rounded tacklers in this draft class.

Kayvon Thibodeaux, Edge rusher, Oregon: Thibodeaux might not make it past the second overall pick — right now he's widely projected to go behind fellow pass-rusher Aidan Hutchinson. On the chance he does slide a few picks, he could be the dynamic kind of sack artist that neither New York team has had in a while. Thibodeaux is very athletic with great explosiveness off the snap, and he uses a variety of moves to get into the backfield.

George Karlaftis, Edge rusher, Purdue: Karlaftis didn't light up the stat sheet at Purdue — he had just 4 ½ sacks in 2021 and 7 ½ in 2019 — but he faced lots of double-teams because of his sheer athleticism and abil-

ity to wreck a game. He may not be as speedy or bendy as fellow top-tier pass-rushers Aidan Hutchinson and Kayvon Thibodeaux, but he wins instead with his great mix of strength and technique.

Nakobe Dean, LB, Georgia: Dean is the latest Georgia linebacker to warrant early draft consideration. He's very instinctive and can diagnose plays quickly, and once he does read the action ahead of him, he's athletic enough to make coverage plays from sideline to sideline or to immediately get downhill to stop the run.

Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU: Stingley, the grandson of former Patriots receiver Darryl Stingley, led LSU with six interceptions in his freshman season in 2019. He's since been slowed by injuries and coaching changes, but the physical traits — top-tier athleticism, technique and ball skills — remain.

Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame: In every draft, there's a Derwin James-type of defender who seemingly can do it all — play deep safety, take on running backs in the box and line up against shifty receivers or big tight ends in the slot. Hamilton is this year's edition, making him a valuable chess piece for a defensive coordinator creative enough to game-plan to his strengths.

Patriots

from Page 1

think we were a lot of fresh faces that brought some energy, some different kind of energy, different playing styles than maybe they had in the past, just different things that we brought to the table.

"I think it was exciting to get with all the guys in the spring and kind of grow in that and grow in personalities and just get to know each other. I think that's carried over tremendously. ... I think we definitely have a little group that sticks together and we're excited about."

Henry, who has a career-best nine touchdown receptions heading into the final week, is one of many free agent signings who have not only made immediate impacts, but are having fun doing it. Kendrick Bourne has posted career highs in receptions (52), receiving yards (776) and touchdowns (5) while displaying an infectious personality. Matthew Judon, who has a career-high 12 ½ sacks, has fit in perfectly in the defense.

Jonnu Smith and Nelson Agholor haven't quite produced yet to the expectations of their lofty price tags, but as a whole, the \$163 million Belichick paid has mostly been well spent,

with another 10-win season to show for it. Count Jalen Mills and Davon Godchaux, too, who have been contributors as role players, and the result is a free agent class that's made a positive mark.

And they're doing it together.

"Everybody has bought in as a group, but especially the new guys," Bourne said. "We feed off each other. Like how are you doing this well? How are you figuring this out? How are you adapting to this? Just talking to each other, knowing each other, growing with each other. It gets better that way. If this guy can get through something, and you just give him the insight on how you do it or whatever, it might help him get through it. So just working together, being good teammates has helped all of us."

Though it didn't start promising after a 2-4 start, the results — which included a seven-game winning streak — have certainly aided the good vibes. And while some free agents who have come and gone through the doors of Gillette Stadium over the last 20 years haven't enjoyed their time in New England, this class has certainly embraced their new situations.

"I think it's been a fun season," Henry said. "Obviously there were a lot of new things going on. New area,

new team, new culture. I felt like I meshed in well with it. I've really enjoyed being here, enjoyed the season, too, everything that's come with it. The good, the bad, learning. I feel like I've become a better football player. ... It's been a pleasure and I've really enjoyed this season more than I probably have than almost any season I've had. It's been a lot of fun."

The 29-year-old Judon, who's in his sixth NFL season, admitted his favorite year is a toss-up between this one and 2019, when he was part of a Ravens team that won 11 games in a row. But between his fondness for Belichick — "I love his energy that he has for the game," the pass rusher said — and how well he's settled in, Judon clearly has loved his first season in New England and is something of a poster boy for what's been a successful free agent class.

"I've enjoyed it. I've really enjoyed my year," Judon said. "Right now, this season is incredible. It's had its ups and downs. Personally, individually, I've been having a very good season, my best season since I've been in the NFL, but as a team, we went to war, we went to battle, lost some tough games and we won some tougher games. I'm having a lot of fun right now."

UConn

from Page 1

see what guys can do," Hurley said.

For fans heading on the road for UConn's game against Seton Hall, masks are required in the Prudential Center unless you are eating or drinking. Starting on Jan. 15, Husky fans will either have to show proof of vaccination or proof of negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of game time for all

home games.

Hurley is optimistic about the Huskies playing their games the rest of the way without any cancellations.

"Unless the other six guys get it (COVID-19) all the same day, even if we are limited in having seven or eight guys we should be good to go from here on out hopefully."

Hurley hasn't been the biggest fan of UConn's scheduling.

"We asked for a lot of things from the confer-

ence office, but we haven't got much of it," Hurley said. "That's where it hurts us, having bye weeks so early in your conference schedule it really comes back to hurt us. I've voiced my displeasure about having bye weeks, so early in conference play, but like some other things we have brought up scheduling wise there was no adjustment made. We will just deal with it, we are thrilled to be able to play out a full season after last year."

Djokovic

from Page 1

border officials reviewed Djokovic's medical exemption and looked at "the integrity and the evidence behind it."

The grounds on which he was granted an exemption were not immediately disclosed.

While Djokovic has steadfastly refused to say whether he has gotten any shots against the coronavirus, he has spoken out against vaccines, and it is widely presumed he would not have sought an exemption if he had been vaccinated.

A federal judge will take up the case next week. A lawyer for the government agreed the nine-time

Australian Open champion should not be deported before then.

"I feel terrible since yesterday that they are keeping him as a prisoner. It's not fair. It's not human. I hope that he will win," Djokovic's mother, Dijana, said after speaking with him briefly by telephone from Belgrade.

She added: "Terrible, terrible accommodation. It's just some small immigration hotel, if it's hotel at all."

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said that he had spoken to Djokovic and that his government asked that the athlete be allowed to move to a house he has rented and "not to be in that infamous hotel."

He added that Djokovic has been treated differently from other players.

"I'm afraid that this overkill will continue," Vucic said. "When you can't beat someone, then you do such things."

Australia's prime minister said the onus is on the traveler to have the proper documentation on arrival. Morrison rejected any suggestion that Djokovic was being singled out but acknowledged that other players may be in Australia on the same type of medical exemption.

"One of the things the Border Force does is they act on intelligence to direct their attention to potential arrivals," he said. "When you get people making public statements about what they say they have, and they're going to do, they draw significant attention to themselves."

Giants

from Page 1

message that this place is going in the right direction."

Logan Ryan said Judge was simply being "honest" and "truthful."

"I trust Joe's vision," defensive coordinator Pat Graham said matter-of-factly. "Leadership has to have vision and with vision, you can't be worried about the stuff that tries to sidetrack you from there. I know Joe's strong, he's a

good leader, smart dude, and he'll handle it how he needs to handle it. But to me, just ignore the noise."

Judge wasn't putting the cart before the horse talking about next season.

Asked for his preference for the Giants' next offensive coordinator, Judge said: "I'm gonna hold any questions on that. I'm gonna file that under hypotheticals for right now. I'm gonna hold anything on that until a later date."

But even with some uncertainty swirling about just how ownership might

react to this jarringly disappointing final stretch, Judge and his coaches and players on Thursday seemed unfazed and confident in the current program's direction.

"When we've seen this city flip, we already know what it is," McGaughey said. "We've seen one week, 'Eli [Manning] sucks.' We've seen that, right? Now, his freaking name's up in the rafters after two Super Bowls. We've seen it here. We know what it is."

Pass it on: The Giants' -10 net yards passing in last

Sunday's loss in Chicago was updated officially to -6 net yards by the Elias Sports Bureau due to a yardage tweak on Glennon's fumble to open the game. So instead of having the fewest net passing yards since the San Diego Chargers' -19 against the Chiefs in 1998, the Giants had the fewest since Tennessee's -7 against the Patriots in 2009. But don't worry: they have one more week!

Toney time's likely up: WR Kadarius Toney (shoulder) and LB Lorenzo Carter (illness) were downgraded

to non-participants in Thursday's practice. Carter wasn't on the field. Toney stretched with the team, then did light side work. It's likely the oft-injured first-round pick's season is over with 39 catches for 420 yards and no touchdowns in only 10 games played.

Toney and Carter joined FB Cullen Gillaspia (knee), QB Glennon (wrist), DT Austin Johnson (foot), WR John Ross (knee) and LB Elerson Smith (neck) as DNP's.

Limited were RB Barkley (ankle), OT Korey Cunning-

ham (Covid ramp-up), G Will Hernandez (ankle), WR Collin Johnson (hamstring), DT Dexter Lawrence (personal/Covid ramp-up), TE Kyle Rudolph (ankle), DT Danny Shelton (Covid ramp-up), WR Darius Slayton (shoulder/Covid ramp-up) and OT Andrew Thomas (shoulder).

Practice squad DB Dwayne Johnson was placed on the Covid reserve list, while WR Dante Pettis, who is on injured reserve, was removed from the Covid list.

Did you know?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, you are 36 percent more likely to be in a car accident in January than July.

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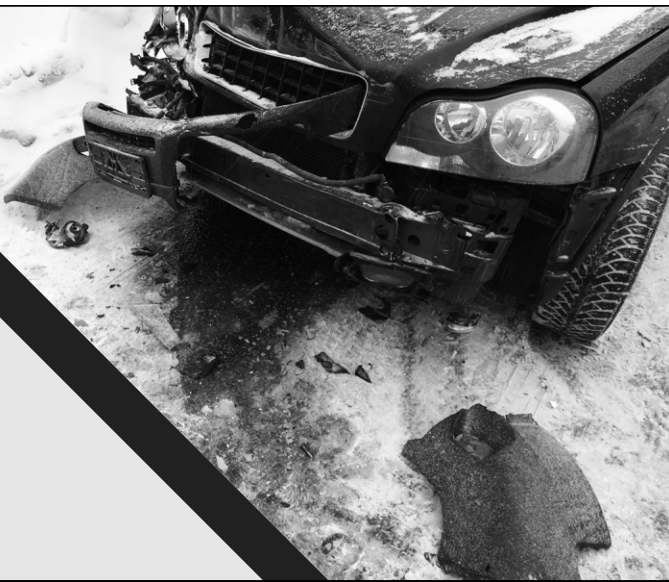
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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

US pays dues, then blasts WADA

The U.S. government paid its remaining \$1.3 million in dues to the World Anti-Doping Agency but delivered a brusque message along with the check, calling its absence from the regulator's top decision-making boards a "sorry state of affairs." WADA announced having received the money Thursday, and President Witold Banka called the release of the funds a sign of support from the U.S. government. But a pair of letters written by the director of the White House drug control office, Rahul Gupta, and obtained by The AP, revealed the money was given despite major misgivings about both the way WADA operates and America's standing within the agency. The government has been critical of WADA for not moving urgently enough to reform itself in the wake of the Russian doping scandal that has upended international sports for most of the Last decade. Gupta also highlighted the United States' absence from WADA's executive committee and foundation board, the two bodies that make the biggest decisions, despite the country's outsized financial impact on the Olympic movement. In its own news release, WADA touted the reforms it had made, including increased representation for athletes and greater independence of some decision-makers.

Loyola Chicago wins ad hoc game

Ryan Schwieger scored 24 points on 9-of-10 shooting to lead Loyola Chicago past San Francisco 79-74 in an impromptu neutral-site matchup at Salt Lake Community College on Thursday. Jacob Hutson added 13 points and Aher Uguak scored 10 for the Ramblers (10-2), who played for the first time since Dec. 10 after having six straight games canceled or postponed due to COVID-19 issues. Yauhen Massalski scored 20 points and blocked four shots to lead the Dons (13-2). Khalil Shabazz added 15 points and Jamaree Bouyea had 13. Loyola and San Francisco agreed to play a neutral-site contest earlier in the week when both teams had conference games scheduled for Thursday postponed because of COVID-19 issues with their opponents. The impromptu game offered a resume-building opportunity for both teams as they pursue NCAA Tournament bids. The Ramblers entered Thursday at No. 19 in the NCAA NET rankings. The Dons were ranked 32nd — one of four West Coast Conference teams in the top 40. "It's cool. Flying to Utah on one day of prep and playing at a community college," Schwieger said. "That's the kind of stuff that college basketball is about." Both teams played at a high level for the bulk of 40 minutes. Loyola and San Francisco each shot over 50% from the floor.

Struggling Man U names new CEO

Manchester United appointed a new chief executive Thursday in the latest step by the fallen English Premier League giant to regain its elite playing status and restore stability. Richard Arnold was promoted from group managing director to CEO, the top leadership role below members of the owning Glazer family. Arnold assumes the responsibilities of Ed Woodward, who leaves Feb. 1 having initially announced his departure last April amid the furor over United's attempt to join the short-lived, ill-fated European Super League. "We are now looking forward to Richard and his leadership team opening a new phase in the club's evolution," co-chairman Joel Glazer said in a statement, "with ambitious plans for investment in Old Trafford, the strengthening of our engagement with fans, and continued drive towards our most important objective — winning on the pitch." Woodward had served as executive vice chairman since 2013 — the year United's decline began with the retirement of Alex Ferguson as manager after 26 years and the Premier League trophy being won for a 13th and final time by the Scot. The record 20-time English champions haven't won the league since then. The 50-year-old Arnold has been at United since 2007. —AP



Lineman Chris Owens and QB Bryce Young celebrate after a touchdown in Alabama's CFP semifinal win over Cincinnati. **AP FILE**

CFP CHAMPIONSHIP

Bumpy road for 'Bama

Tide overcame adversity to find way to familiar spot

By John Zenor
Associated Press

Down to the last play of the regular season, this Alabama team managed to bounce off the ropes when it seemed most vulnerable. It's unlike some previous Nick Saban powerhouses that have been seemingly destined for the national title game — barring a shocker along the way — from start to finish. The 2020 team batted aside every opponent during the regular season with a seemingly unstoppable offense. The 2011 defense was equally formidable, even in a regular season slipup against LSU (losing 9-6 in overtime). The 2009 team, like last season's, was unbeaten. It wasn't always clear how good the 2021 version would end up becoming. This team was flawed and seemingly vulnerable — at least until the SEC championship game against then-No. 1 Georgia. The Bulldogs seemed to have claimed the juggernaut mantle, but Alabama walked away with a comfortable 41-24 win. It was an impressive win for those underdogs at 'Bama. Not that there wasn't reason to doubt the Crimson Tide. The offensive line appeared suspect even before some injury issues. The defense lost linebacker Christopher Allen to a fractured foot in the opener. And the offensive backfield has been down to two healthy scholarship tailbacks through the last four games.

Saban seemed to adopt a gentler touch for this group, publicly at least. Praising more than criticizing not-so-dominant efforts after games, letting a younger group grow and evolve. Like a parent not treating all his kids just the same. "We've got a lot of young players that are out there playing," Saban said. "I think when you have success the previous season, which the guys that did come back were very successful, it really took a long time for us to sort of develop the chemistry on this team from a leadership standpoint." The results were survival games against Florida, LSU and Auburn — all of whom wound up 6-7. Not to mention a 41-38 loss to then-unranked Texas A&M before going on an eight-game win streak. "It's been a special journey, especially knowing that a lot of people doubted us throughout the season," tight end Cameron Latu said. "And we had to just find our identity as a whole." Four of Alabama's wins have come by seven points or less. Only one was that close last season. So if this doesn't go down with a real case as one of Saban's best Alabama teams, it's certainly among the most tested and one that has been peaking at just the right time. Alabama did have to replace six first-round NFL draft picks — five from the offensive line — and three Heisman Trophy finalists, including winner DeVonta Smith. The best offensive playmakers were gone. So growing pains were expected. "I feel like adversity has been a big theme for us this whole season," said quarterback Bryce Young, who

brought a second straight Heisman to Tuscaloosa. This team was built around the best offensive player in the country — Young — and arguably the best defensive player — linebacker Will Anderson Jr. But it still needed a last-gasp 97-yard drive and four overtimes to beat Auburn and keep those playoff hopes alive. Only the ending — happy or otherwise — will determine this team's final legacy. But others in the Saban era are awfully hard to measure up to, including six national championship teams. Last season's team romped through a 10-game, league-only season thanks largely to an offense led by Smith and fellow Heisman Trophy finalists Mac Jones and Najee Harris. The Tide had one of the nation's best offenses, averaging 48.5 points and 541.6 yards per game. So that group would need all of nine quarters to match the total of 106 points allowed by Alabama in 2011, one of four Saban teams to lead the nation in scoring defense. The 2009 team featured Heisman tailback Mark Ingram and a defense led by massive lineman Terrence Cody and Butkus Award-winning linebacker Rolando McClain. This one has plenty of star power. And the battle scars from a season that could have gone the other way after the Texas A&M loss. "We all came together at this point, and we're locking in to get ready to finish this off for the season," linebacker Christian Harris said. "So if we had a rough time in the season, we definitely are making it up."

COMMENTARY

Mess Down Under all Djokovic's fault

By Jim Litke | Associated Press

Novak Djokovic's abrupt exit from the Australian Open gives new meaning to the term "unforced error." Just to be clear, Djokovic could have steered clear of the entire mess by getting vaccinated like Rafa Nadal, his greatest rival, and just about all the other players, officials, staff members and even fans who set foot inside Melbourne Park when the tournament begins Jan. 17. Or like the "handful" of other players that Australian Open director Craig Tiley acknowledged were also granted exemptions, he could have simply shown up, shut up and kept his fingers crossed hoping that nobody noticed. Instead, just before his flight from Dubai to Australia, Djokovic bragged about it on Twitter. "I've spent fantastic quality time with loved ones over break & today I'm heading Down Under with an exemption permission," Djokovic wrote. "Let's go 2022."






A court hearing Monday will determine if Novak Djokovic is deported from Australia. **THE NEW YORK TIMES FILE**

Not so fast. Djokovic is almost unbeatable at tennis, but politics is a whole other game. By the time he landed at Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport, a nation that endured months-long lockdowns and kept its border closed until recently was spitting mad. Suddenly, his exemption wasn't worth the paper it was printed on. "The rule is very clear," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Thursday. "You need to have a medical exemption. He didn't have a valid medical exemption. We make the call at the border, and that's where it's enforced." That explained how Djokovic wound up cooling his heels at the airport overnight. Apparently, the quality and variety of the concession stands there weren't to his liking since Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic — who spoke with Djokovic at one point — went on Instagram and demanded "the harassment of the best tennis player in the world be stopped in the shortest possible time." How long it goes on, though, depends on whether and on what grounds Djokovic appeals the Australian Border Force decision. A court hearing on his bid to stave off deportation was set for Monday. The Melbourne newspaper The Age quoted sources claiming that Djokovic sought an exemption because he'd contracted COVID-19 in the previous six months. If true, the court case won't stretch on for long. The Age also reported that federal health authorities informed tournament director Craig Tiley on two previous occasions in writing that any exemption based on a prior infection would not be approved for quarantine-free entry. "If that evidence is insufficient," Morrison said, "then he won't be treated any different to anyone else, and he'll be on the next plane home." Asked whether Djokovic was being singled out, Morrison conceded other players with the same exemption and visa may have slipped into the country. But at least they were smart enough not to announce it. "When you get people making public statements about what they say they have, and they're going to do," Morrison said, "they draw significant attention to themselves." Djokovic's on-court outbursts in the past, as well as his opposition to vaccine mandates and problematic pronouncements on science and medicine have landed him in hot water before. Eighteen months ago, while the coronavirus raged, he organized a tennis exhibition back home in Belgrade that was cancelled after Djokovic and three other participants tested positive. You'd think he would have learned that lesson before now. "I think if he wanted," Nadal said when asked about Djokovic, "he would be playing here in Australia without a problem. He went through another — he made his own decisions, and everybody is free to take their own decisions, but then there are some consequences, no?" Yes. And like it or not, the people who run sports have been forced to choose sides in the ongoing public debate about vaccinations and pressed on how to handle a pandemic that waxes and wanes with maddening unpredictability. So it comes as little surprise that their decisions haven't always been satisfying or consistent. We've already seen Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers miss one game while he was in the NFL COVID protocol and get slapped on the wrist — he was fined \$14,000 — for purposely misleading the league about his unvaccinated status for months. Meanwhile, the Nets' proudly unvaccinated Kyrie Irving sat out the entire first half of the NBA season and still will be allowed to play only in Nets' road games. If nothing else, Djokovic's likely exile from Australia and the first major of the tennis season is a sign that while the calendar has turned over, some athletes will insist on remaining behind the times. They can frame that decision any way they choose — it's theirs to make, after all — so long as they recognize the rest of us don't have to play along.




WEATHER

FRIDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

SATURDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

SUNDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

MONDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

TUESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Morning snow, some afternoon sunshine develops, breezy. Northwest wind at 10 to 15 mph. 3 to 8 inches.

HIGH 34°
LOW 16°

Mostly sunny and very chilly.

HIGH 32°
LOW 16°

Thickening cloudiness, afternoon showers, may start briefly as some snow or sleet.

HIGH 38°
LOW 26°

Partly sunny and breezy, colder.





HIGH 31°
LOW 10°

Sunny, breezy and very cold.

HIGH 18°
LOW 6°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

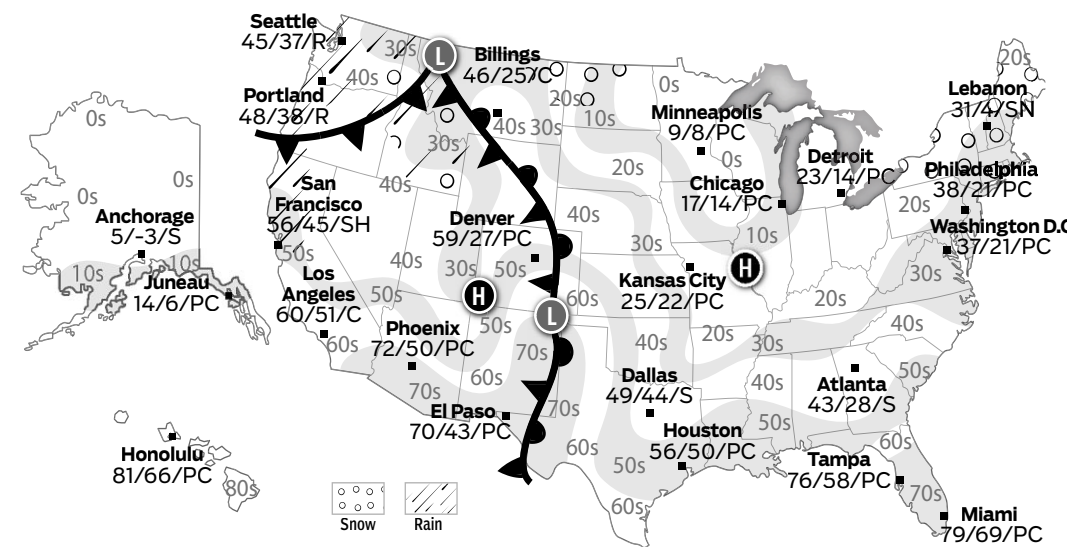
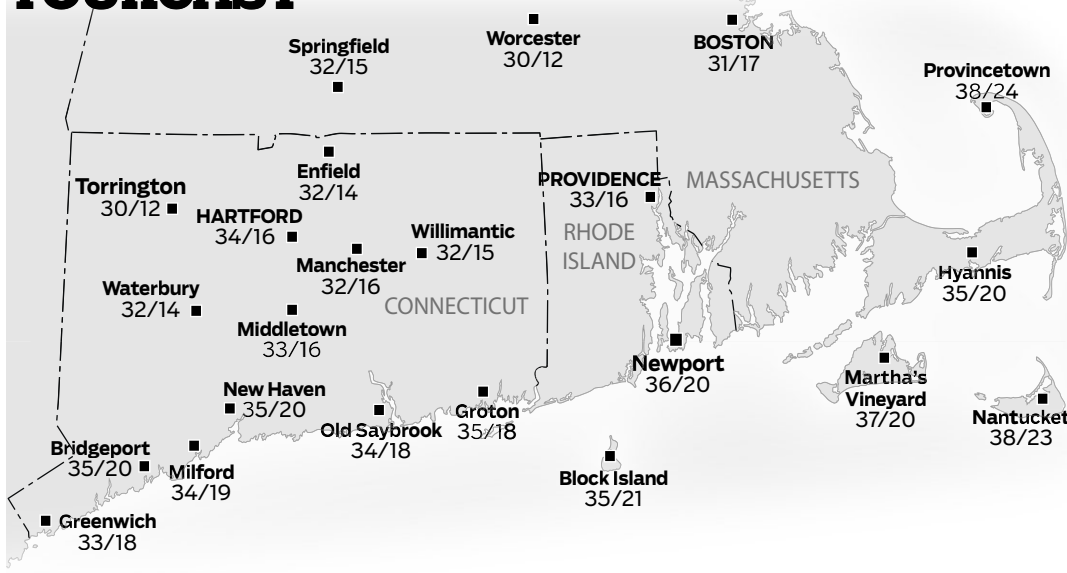
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YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

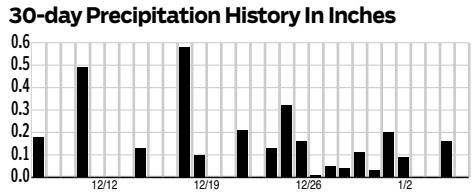
A Winter Storm Warning is in effect for Middlesex, New London, and Windham counties, while a Winter Weather Advisory is in effect for the rest of the state until early afternoon on Friday. Snow will accumulate 2 to 5 inches in western areas, 3 to 7 inches in central sections, and 5 to 8 or 9 inches in eastern areas. The bulk of the snow will exit Connecticut by noontime, but a few snow showers could linger in eastern areas until the early afternoon. It will be a breezy and chilly afternoon with high temperatures in the low to mid-30s and northwest winds at 10 to 15 mph.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.12
Month to date	0.45 0.69
Total this year	0.45 0.69
Snowfall In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0 0.4
Total this year	4.2 14.7

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



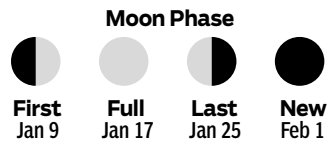
Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	12:37 a.m. 12:56 p.m.	7:06 a.m. 7:38 p.m.	43°
Saybrook Jetty	1:48 a.m. 2:07 p.m.	7:59 a.m. 8:31 p.m.	43°
Connecticut River at Portland	4:31 a.m. 4:50 p.m.	11:45 a.m. p.m.	42°
Madison	2:07 a.m. 2:27 p.m.	8:15 a.m. 8:43 p.m.	41°
New Haven	2:27 a.m. 2:47 p.m.	8:39 a.m. 9:07 p.m.	41°
Stamford	2:31 a.m. 2:51 p.m.	8:53 a.m. 9:21 p.m.	44°

River Stage at Hartford: 4.40 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
	Snow	Snow	Snow
Wind	NW, 15-20	N/NW, 15-25	N/NW, 20
Seas	2-4 ft.	2-4 ft.	3-5 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good 50	Low 1	16°
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
Today	Today	Today
Sunrise	7:18 a.m.	7:18 a.m.
Sunset	4:36 p.m.	4:37 p.m.
Moonrise	10:50 a.m.	11:13 a.m.
Moonset	10:27 p.m.	11:33 p.m.



AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND	Bangor 28 13 SN Burlington 25 7 SF Caribou 23 9 SN Concord 31 8 SN Montpelier 26 3 SN Mt. Wash. 8 -9 SN Portland 31 15 SN Woods Hole 36 19 SN	Baltimore 35 17 PC Bismarck 13 10 C Boise 43 25 SH Buffalo 25 13 C Charleston 56 32 S Cincinnati 23 11 PC Cleveland 24 13 C Indianapolis 20 14 PC Jacksonville 62 41 S Las Vegas 64 45 PC Miami Beach 79 72 PC Milwaukee 16 12 PC	Nashville 26 18 PC New Orleans 54 48 S New York 37 22 SF Okla. City 43 36 PC Omaha 23 18 PC Orlando 76 53 PC Pittsburgh 26 14 C Raleigh 43 22 S St. Louis 24 20 PC Salt Lake City 48 29 PC San Antonio 57 49 PC San Diego 61 54 C	WORLD	Amsterdam 43 32 R Athens 64 48 C Bangkok 95 75 PC Barbados 85 72 S Beijing 43 21 S Belirt 37 30 C Berlin 75 64 SH Buenos Aires 86 72 C Cairo 66 47 S Cancun 82 73 PC Dubai 75 63 S Edinburgh 41 37 SH Helsinki 18 12 PC Hong Kong 70 61 PC Istanbul 55 48 SH Jerusalem 61 48 S Johannesburg 72 59 T	Budapest 37 23 S Cairo 66 47 S Cancun 82 73 PC Dubai 75 63 S Edinburgh 41 37 SH Helsinki 18 12 PC Hong Kong 70 61 PC Istanbul 55 48 SH Jerusalem 61 48 S Johannesburg 72 59 T	Kingston 90 75 PC Lisbon 59 48 PC London 43 36 PC Madrid 50 30 S Milan 72 48 S Montreal 41 27 SH Moscow 23 3 SN Nassau 25 14 SN Paris 82 66 PC New Delhi 70 55 SH Rio de Janeiro 86 72 T Rome 54 34 C Seoul 39 25 S Singapore 93 75 T	Stockholm 27 26 PC Sydney 86 70 T Tel Aviv 66 46 S Tokyo 48 34 PC Toronto 25 10 SF Vancouver 37 30 R Warsaw 32 25 S
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Cain-Gribble and LeDuc take pairs lead at US championships

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ashley Cain-Gribble and Timothy LeDuc upstaged a brilliant performance by Jessica Calalang and Brian Johnson on Thursday to take the lead after the pairs short program at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Cain-Gribble and LeDuc, skating last among the eight teams at Bridgestone Arena, were near-flawless in a program set to music from the 2018 biographical drama film “The White Crow.” It was highlighted by a soaring triple loop and piled up 79.39 points, a score that would have been third best in the world this season.

More importantly, it put the 2019 national champions ahead of

Calalang and Johnson heading into the free skate at what amounts to the U.S. trials for the Beijing Olympics next month.

“We’re thrilled. It was exactly the way we wanted to skate,” Cain-Gribble said with a bright smile, “and we knew we had to be perfect with the program that went before, but we didn’t focus on that too much.”

Calalang and Johnson opened with a brilliant side-by-side triple salchow that has caused them problems in the past, and the reigning silver medalists finished with a tremendous lift that left them with 77.48 points after their short program.

Audrey Lu and Misha Mitrofanov made a couple of mistakes

and were in third place with 68.11 points.

The competition continued later Thursday with the women’s short program.

The U.S. has two pairs spots for the Beijing Games, and one of those could go to defending U.S. champions Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier, who were forced to withdraw Wednesday night following his positive COVID-19 test.

Knierim and Frazier plan to petition U.S. Figure Skating for one of the spots based on their exemplary scope of work. If they are successful, that would leave just one spot up for grabs; the pairs free skate takes place Saturday night.

“We’re aware of the process and I have been through it before,”

said Knierim, who successfully petitioned to make the 2017 Four Continents with husband Chris after undergoing abdominal surgery. “It’s not a great feeling to go through it for anyone, but we are grateful that our federation has this mechanism.”

If there’s indeed one spot left for the taking, Cain-Gribble and LeDuc gave themselves the inside track. The pair, who had to halt work over the summer when Cain-Gribble was briefly hospitalized with COVID-19, looked as if they’d never been off the ice. They were effortless in the solo jumps that have caused them problems in the past, and now they can look ahead to the free skate, which has been their strength all season.

Calalang and Johnson also spent time off the ice, though for a much different reason: They spent several months fighting a positive test for a banned stimulant that was found to have been in one of Calalang’s cosmetics.

“What we went through was really awful. We didn’t even know if we would be here at this U.S. championships,” she said, “and if we learned anything this year — we just have really connected on such a deeper level.”

That was evident in their performance to a rocking version of The Beatles’ hit “Come Together” performed by Aerosmith.

“Every day is a new day,” Johnson said. “Go out there, enjoy, have fun and whatever happens, happens.”

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

WEDNESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL			
NCCC	SOMERS 48, EAST GRANBY 13	SOMERS (4-1):	Deidre Dalessio 4-0-10, Devon Dalessio 2-0-4, Eliana Wood 8-0-16, Davra Sawyer 1-0-2, Grace Majowicz 1-1-3, Halle Watt 2-0-4, Natasha Sherwood 1-0-2, Sydney Cassidy 3-1-7. Totals 52-2-48.
EAST GRANBY (0-3):	Malina Betts 1-0-2, Megan Benner 1-0-2, Sarah Spinger 1-2-4, Ava Goyard 2-0-5. Totals 5-2-13.	5	16
6	—	14	48
EG	2	3	0
8	—	13	

WRESTLING

CCC-North	NEWINGTON 31, NEW BRITAIN 30
CCC-South	BERLIN 72, MALONEY 6
CCC-West	SOUTHTONING 41, HALL 36
CCC-Inter	RHAM 59, WINDSOR 9
NCCC	SUFFIELD/WINDSOR LOCKS 30, COVENTRY 24
SCC	XAVIER 62, BRANFORD 6
HAND 57, EAST HAVEN 21	

FRIDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES AT 6:45 P.M. UNLESS NOTED	
BOYS BASKETBALL	
CCC-Inter:	Berlin at Avon; Southington at Enfield; Bristol Central at East Hartford; Platt at South Windsor; Manchester at Glastonbury; Maloney at Hartford Public; Bulkeley at E.O. Smith; Bloomfield at Lewis Mills
NCCC:	HMTCA at East Windsor, 5:45p.m.; Somers at Canton; Stafford at Windsor Locks; Rockville at East Granby; SMSA at Coventry; Granby at Ellington; Suffield at Bolton
Shoreline:	Haddam-Killingworth at Morgan, 7 p.m.; Westbrook at Coginchaug, 7p.m.; Old Lyme at Old Saybrook, 7p.m.; Valley Regional at Cromwell, 7p.m.; Portland at Hale-Ray, 7p.m.
CTC:	Cheney Tech at Vinal Tech, 5:30p.m.; Wilcox Tech at O'Brien Tech, 6p.m.; Goodwin Tech at Prince Tech, 6p.m.
CRAL:	Civic Leadership at Parish Hill, 6p.m.; Classical at Capital Prep, 6p.m.; University at MLC, 7p.m.
SCC:	Lyman Hall at Hand, 7p.m.; Cheshire at Amity, 7p.m.
ECC:	Plainfield at Windham, 7p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-Inter:	Hartford Public at Bristol Central, 5:30p.m.; Lewis Mills at New Britain, 5:45p.m.; Tolland at Simsbury
NCCC:	Bolton at Suffield, 6p.m.; Ellington at Granby; East Granby at Rockville; Windsor Locks at Stafford; Coventry at SMSA
Shoreline:	Old Lyme at Old Saybrook, 5p.m.; Hale-Ray at Portland, 6p.m.; Coginchaug at Westbrook, 6p.m.; Cromwell at Valley Regional, 6p.m.
CTC:	Prince Tech at Goodwin Tech, 4p.m.; Vinal Tech at Cheney Tech, 5:30p.m.; Windham Tech at Ellis Tech, 6p.m.
CRAL:	Classical at Weaver, 4p.m.; Civic Leadership at Innovation, 6p.m.
SCC:	Hamden at Sheehan, 6p.m.; Hand at Mercy, 7p.m.; Shelton at Lyman Hall, 7p.m.
Others:	Greenwich at University, 6:30p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

Others: Enfield co-op at Tri-Town, 8:20p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY

CCC: Avon co-op at Suffield co-op, 6:10p.m. Others: Masuk co-op at East Catholic co-op, 8:30p.m.

WRESTLING

Others: Xavier at SWAT, 9a.m.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Others: Prince Tech at U.S. Air Force Hispanic Games (The Armory, N.Y.), 6p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

SCC: Sheehan, Shelton at Xavier, 7:45p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MAINE 65, HARTFORD 44

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SACRED HEART AT CENTRAL, CANCELED

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MONMOUTH AT QUINNIPIAC, LATE

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wesleyan at Tufts, 7p.m. Marist at Fairfield, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Trinity at Bowdoin, 7p.m.

Tufts at Wesleyan, 7p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Middlebury at Trinity, 7p.m. Williams at Wesleyan, 7p.m. Yale at Princeton, 7p.m. Sacred Heart at Niagara, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

UConn at Vermont, 6p.m. Trinity at Williams, 7p.m. Wesleyan at Colby, 7p.m.

AHL Standings

Atlantic	GP	W-L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Springfield	28	17-8	2	1	37	.661
Hartford	26	14-8	2	2	32	.615
Hershey	27	15-9	2	1	33	.611
Providence	25	13-8	3	1	30	.600
Charlotte	27	14-11	2	0	30	.556
Lehigh Valley	26	9-11	4	2	24	.462
W-B/Scranton	24	9-12	1	2	21	.438
Bridgeport	32	10-16	3	3	26	.406
North	GP	W-L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Utica	22	18-1	0	0	39	.886
Rochester	26	17-9	0	0	34	.654
Laval	24	12-10	2	0	26	.542
Toronto	24	12-10	1	1	26	.542
Cleveland	24	10-8	3	3	26	.542
Bellevue	25	12-13	0	0	24	.480
Syracuse	21	8-10	2	1	19	.452
Central	GP	W-L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Chicago	26	20-4	1	1	42	.808
Manitoba	26	16-9	1	0	33	.635
Grand Rapids	25	11-10	3	1	26	.520
Iowa	26	11-11	2	2	26	.500
Rockford	24	11-11	1	2	24	.500
Milwaukee	29	12-15	2	0	26	.448
Texas	23	8-11	3	1	20	.435
Pacific	GP	W-L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Stockton	25	19-3	2	1	41	.820
Ontario	24	15-6	2	1	33	.688
Henderson	24	14-7	2	1	31	.646
Tucson	21	10-9	2	0	22	.524
Abbotsford	22	10-9	2	1	23	.523
Colorado	28	12-11	3	2	29	.518
Bakersfield	22	8-8	3	3	22	.500
San Jose	26	11-14	1	0	23	.442
San Diego	22	9-12	1	0	19	.432

THURSDAY'S RESULT

BAKERSFIELD AT ABBOTSFORD, LATE

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Hartford at Rochester, 7p.m. Hershey at Syracuse, 7p.m. W-B/Scranton at Utica, 7p.m. Springfield at Belleville, 7p.m. Iowa at Grand Rapids, 7p.m. Lehigh Valley at Providence, 7p.m. Cleveland at Milwaukee, 8p.m. Chicago at Rockford, 8p.m. Manitoba at Texas, 8p.m. Stockton at San Diego, 10p.m.

Henderson at San Jose, 10p.m.
Bakersfield at Abbotsford, 10p.m.
Big East basketball standings

MEN'S

Team	CONF CPCT	OVR PCT
Creighton	2-0	1.000 10-3 .769
Providence	3-1	.750 13-2 .867
Villanova	2-1	.667 9-4 .692
Xavier	1-1	.500 11-2 .846
UConn	1-1	.500 10-3 .769
Butler	1-1	.500 8-5 .615

Seton Hall; 1-2; .333; 10-3; .769
Marquette; 1-3; .250; 9-6; .600
St. John's; 0-0; .000; 8-3; .727
Georgetown; 0-0; .000; 6-5; .545
DePaul; 0-2; .000; 9-3; .750

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Marquette at Georgetown, 6:30p.m. Xavier at Butler, 8:30p.m.

WOMEN'S

Team; CONF; CPCT; OVR; PCT
Creighton; 4-0; 1.000; 9-3; .750
DePaul; 3-0; 1.000; 11-3; .786
UConn; 1-0; 1.000; 6-3; .667
Marquette; 2-1; .667; 9-3; .750
Villanova; 2-2; .500; 8-5; .615
Georgetown; 1-1; .500; 6-4; .600
Providence; 1-2; .333; 6-6; .500
St. John's; 1-2; .333; 5-8; .385
Seton Hall; 1-3; .250; 6-6; .500
Xavier; 1-3; .250; 6-7; .462
Butler; 0-3; .000; 1-11; .083

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Butler at Seton Hall, 11a.m. Xavier at St. John's, 7p.m. DePaul at Providence, 7p.m. UConn at Villanova, 7p.m. Marquette at Creighton, 7:30p.m.

Hockey East standings

Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
UMass Lowell	17	11-3-3-11	8-2-1	25	
UMass	15	9-4-2	11	7-2-2	24
Northeastern	18	13-4-1-11	7-3-1	23	
Providence	23	15-7-1-11	6-5-0	19	
Boston College	18	10-5-3-10	5-3-2	19	
Boston University	19	7-9-3	13	5-5-3	17
UConn	15	8-7-0	9	5-4-0	14
Merrimack	17	7-9-1	10	3-7-0	12
New Hampshire	19	8-10-1	11	3-7-1	9
Vermont	17	3-12-2	10	2-6-2	8
Maine	17	2-11-4	11	1-8-2	7

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Clarkson at Merrimack, 7p.m. St. Lawrence at New Hampshire, 7p.m. Arizona State at Boston University, 7:30p.m. Alaska at Maine, 7:30p.m. LIU at Northeastern, 7:30p.m.